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The following is verbatim from a Salvation
Army Placard, posted in Bawey Street,
Hobart, 1892.

— 3 — Two Days
With God —
In the Temperance Hall
Thursday & Friday, Nov. 10 and 11 —

Our Chief Justice, Sir Lambert Dobson,
is President of the Shakespeare Society.
He gave a long critical disquisition on
the Merchant of Venice, in which he laid
down the proposition that the moral Shake-
speare meant to teach by the play, was
the evil of the Love of money! He was very
strenuous in his condemnation of the
dangers of a devotion to money! Seeing
that the whole plot turns on the Jew's
preference of revenge to the attractions
of gain, it would seem that Shakespeare's
moral had gone somewhat astray.

In a subsequent meeting where Lady
Macbeth's character was discussed, the
C.J. caused some amusement by persistently
speaking of Lady Macbeth as 'Her ladyship'.

Labour troubles are a bad sign of the
times. The Broken Hill Strike like the
Shipping Strike some time since, was a
wonderful exhibition of folly on the part
of the workmen — or of their leaders.

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The words in which Champion described the Shipping Strike - "An army of lions led by asses" - not ineptly describes this later development. It is satisfactory that as Hancock, Trenwith & the rest were discredited by the result of the former contest, so were Sleath & others at Broken Hill. It was more satisfactory that by the change of venue the leaders - Sleath & others - were tried by a jury of farmers, who had the moral courage to do their duty. If they had been brought to trial in one of the towns they would probably have been acquitted. As it was the men, who had stood aside from personal participation in any acts of violence, but had incited others to commit them, ~~were~~ met their deserts. It is to the credit of Australia that the Government of New South Wales had the courage in spite of the threats of the Labour party, to bring to trial the guilty instigators of outrage & not their dupes, that the jury had the courage & clear sense to convict them, and that the government again had the firmness to enforce the punishment which they had incurred for not for striking but for breaking the law by intimidating others. And this in a community where, if any where, the working man is almost supreme at the ballot box. It says something for the Australian respect for law, and the determination that the right to freedom of action shall be sacredly preserved for all citizens.

Whether the employers have thought victorious in all these struggles - viz^t the Shipping Strike, the Shearers Strike, & this last Broken Hill Strike - have shown the greatest wisdom, may be questioned. They have vindicated freedom of contract, & in this have carried the nation generally with them. Perhaps this is shown most strikingly by the significant fact that in Australia the opprobrious term 'blackleg', has been - except with the Unionists - quite superseded by the honorable designation of 'free labourer'. They have also taught the workmen, and the employers themselves, the hitherto unrecognised power of an employers' Union or combination. But it is a question whether they have not pushed their victory to an extreme. They have broken & beaten the Unions for the time, but intensified their bitterness. A little more moderation in victory would have placed the employers in a stronger position, and probably won them a more enduring triumph. Now the passionate feeling of the broken Unions is reculer pour mieux sauter, and it is probable that ~~with~~ they will bend all their energies to extend their sphere and include more & more 'free labour', & when this is done, & their funds once more restored, they will strike their enemies again on a larger field & with augmented forces.

In the contest of selfish interests, the

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labourers are likely to be the growing strength, and in their bitterness they may be even more unsparring in their revanches, even if in pulling down their enemies they bury themselves in the ruins.

My quarrel with the New Unionism is that it is essentially a selfish movement, & a narrowly selfish movement - the selfishness of a limited class. It cares nothing for the interests of labour generally. ~~The~~ It will look on with cynical indifference at the thousands starving outside, so long as the hundreds within its own borders may gain a little more.

Still Unionism has done much for its adherents. It is practical in its methods, & its ends, if narrow & selfish, are attainable to a large extent. It has done great things for the artisan. In this it forms a striking contrast to Socialism, which with all its noble ideals of universal benevolence, is singularly blind to what is practically attainable. It denounces the luxury of the rich, quite oblivious of the fact that if all this luxury was divided among the poor it would hardly appreciably improve their condition. In fact, it disregards arithmetic and acts on the assumption that if you can acquire £100 which is a superfluity of your neighbour's, you may divide it among 1000 people who are in want, & give to each a £10 note. Its practical

result would be to pull down the rich and the leisured, and not raise to any appreciable degree the poor and the overworked. The socialists can never grasp the truth that the idle & luxurious class is an infinitely small fraction of the nation, and that the addition of their superfluity of wealth & leisure would add but an infinitely small fraction to each individual, even if it were added to the common stock and the whole redistributed. The lowest workers would receive a fraction more, ~~but~~ all others would be reduced to the lower level of these labourers. It would be the greatest levelling down that the world has ever seen.

Whether we are not within measurable distance of a new social revolution is another question. The principle of unfettered competition appears to be breaking down. It has come to this, that there is now, in many trades, hardly any margin of profit for either the capitalist or the workman. Will the system break down under its own weight, or will some *modus vivendi* be found in a mitigation of the stress? That is the question which the next few years will have to solve.

It is a fact that Socialism is growing a fashionable fad. So before the French Revolution philosophical liberalism became the fashionable fad of the Salons!

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Jan'y 29.

Mary had a letter from Mrs Hurrens the other day. Mrs Hurrens is a daughter of old Alfred Huybers - (Cousin Huybers she was always called) and she has a good deal of the shrewdness & literary faculty in which her sister Jessie, who married Charlie Fraser, & is better known as 'Lama', excels. She said that it seemed to her that "the people of Hobart reversed Xenos saying that he knew nothing except that he knew nothing. The Hobart people on the other hand know everything except that they know nothing." This is shrewd & true.

It is surprising what parsons will do in the supposed interest of their churches: - Things that as gentlemen - either in social life or in ordinary matters of business - they would be ashamed of. The Dean (Dundas) is a notable example of this - He holds apparently that the end sanctifies the means. Good old James Malch is very angry with him - and Malch is a gentleman sans peur & sans reproche every inch of him - because Dundas has been going about asking his parishioners not to get their stationery from Malch's or other shops but from the St David's Book Depot. Lilly Clarke said the other day that she considered the Dean was "a religious cad". How indignant or supercilious the Dean would be if he heard it. Yet it is true. As a parson he forgets that he is a gentleman.

I have been telling Woolleough to the Church people that St David's ought to register as a Co. "St David's Limited". They have built and opened a book & stationery shop in the Cathedral ground, & are now building lawyers offices to let. Some time since they ran a flower shop for bouquets & buttonholes in competition with the florists. Then the Dean imported some Kilburn Sisters who have opened a superior high grade school at prices one third less than the ordinary schools. I told Woolleough that it was degrading to the Church & a scandal to religion. That if Wesleyans, Congregationalists, or Salvation Army adopted such expedients the Church people would say it was only what might be expected of Dissenters without the feeling of gentlemen, but that in fact the Church with its aristocratic pretensions did things that the Wesleyans would be ashamed of.

Henry Dobson as Premier is to me a huge joke. He knows nothing of politics, not to say Statesmanship, but delivers himself of speeches in public with the greatest confidence, speeches of which a schoolboy might be ashamed. This is truly Dobsonian. There is nothing the Dobsons won't undertake, and they are quite oblivious of the fact of ^{any possible} ~~their~~ ignorance or incompetence. That they are Dobsons is sufficient qualification.

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Great is the power of stupidity, combined with a want of the sense of humour. I made the remark to Frank Young the other day, He said that if the Dobson's had a gleam of a sense of humour they would go off in inextinguishable laughter at themselves, their speeches, their pretensions, and all their works.

Feb. 23.

I find the following notes of a conversation with W. H. Dawson one Sunday evening last August.

Dawson said - "He must either accept Orthodox Christianity, and conceive of Christ as actually in a personal human form present in Heaven and ready to listen to our prayers, ~~who~~ or give up the whole of Christianity."

"The first alternative is revolting to reason. There is no such being - no Christ who can hear. Therefore we cannot love him, our hearts cannot go out to him. We can only admire what was beautiful in his character, as we admire other great men, although with a stronger admiration for what he was."

I said that I thought there was a possible tertium quid.

The Trinity was a metaphysical theory, and at the best only conceivable as expressing metaphysically the various manifestations of the Divine which the human mind could conceive - ¹ The Creator - ² Divine in terms of the human - ³ The Spirit - felt as an influence

If we accept Christ as the highest manifestation of the Divine in human terms, he then represented or embodied what is eternally existent in the divine nature, therefore existent as much now as then.

Our hearts can therefore go out to what he visibly embodied, for that is an existent reality now. That is ready to sympathize, to feel and to help.

If we find it easier and more helpful to address our prayers and our hearts to that same spirit (or whatever you may name it) under name or embodiment in which it was once visible in our world, there is no unreality in that. We are not addressing a void or a figment of the imagination. The substance is there as always, only we give it in our minds the concrete shape which we can humanly understand.

'For my sake', 'In my name', = what I represent, i.e. the eternal & divine goodness.

It is a question whether even the coarse material representation of Christ and the direct prayer to him as an embodied man in Heaven, does not really contain a deeper truth than the denial of Christ's present existence. That is, so long as such a representation does not represent him as at variance ^{with} or differing in will and feeling from the Father.

Dawson assented and mentioned Moody's story of the man in the American War, who went about helping wounded soldiers

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"For Charlie's Sake" - His son having been killed in
Yes, I said, Charlie embodied the pain
and trouble of wounded soldiers everywhere,
and made the pain and trouble a living
and moving reality to the father - -

July 26

As I sat on the Club Balcony on a
perfect Summer evening on Regatta Day
and listened to a distant band playing in
the Barrack Square, my thoughts wandered
back to the days when Hobart was not a
city, but a small and petty country town,
when it might almost have been called
a settlement struggling to become a town.

In those days, when I was some 10 years
old, Hobart was a quaint little place.
There were hardly any houses above two
stories, and these were mostly of brick,
of the ugliest and most primitive architecture
with small panes of glass in the windows.
The shops were quaint little places with
small windows - Some of the best being
the old shops still standing in Liverpool
Street opposite to where our old Savings
Bank was, though these have now been
so much improved as to be hardly
recognisable. At frequent intervals in
the main streets still stood little wooden
shanties, many of which were public
houses or drinking shops. There was
no water service but gaunt wooden
towers here and there, chiefly in

Macquarie Street, called "fountains",
and from a leather hose attached to them
the water carts, a barrel on wheels, used
to draw water for the domestic supply,
retailing it at a shilling a load.

The town was dotted with widely scattered
square wooden posts, bearing evil smelling
smoky & feebly burning oil lamps, scarcely
enough to make darkness visible. The
tradesmen had a primitive way of
delivering goods - a hand cart pushed by
a porter was the highest flight. The
bakers' men carried their bread to their
customers in huge baskets slung on their
backs the handle coming in front.

The butchers' men carried their joints on
the old fashioned wooden tray with
handles & carried on the shoulder -
Later came the bakers & butchers' carts
but the baker's hand cart was long in
disappearing & the butcher's boy on
horseback with a basket even yet survives.

Delivery carts are quite a recent invention.

Those were the days when the chain
gang was a familiar institution. The
string of 'prisoners' in grey or yellow, or
both in combination mastic like, with
the perpetual clink clank of the chains
as they shuffled along had lost the
effect of hideousness from its familiarity
to our boyish eyes. And as a set off
was there not the glory of the soldiers,
dressed in the old fashioned coats

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with two diminutive tails, and the grotesque
stiff headdress, like a truncated cone inverted
set off with a white woollen ball instead
of plume. The march of nearly a full
regiment with their white coated military
band through the streets, and their
evolutions in "the paddock" - as the
Domain was called - was a joy beyond
all sights of those days in which sights
were rare.

Hobart is not a thronged & busy city even
now, but for two or three months in summer
time she puts on a gay appearance. The
hundreds - almost thousands of visitors
from the other colonies make the little
city lively, & with their demand for
excursions and amusements. But in
those days the visitor who came to Hobart
for pleasure was a rara avis, the
tourist was well nigh unknown. Our
summers were as quiet as our winters,
and we went our quiet trips up the
mountain or to Fern Tree gully on foot
or our simple picnics in a waterman
boat, unmolested by the swarms of
foreign pleasure seekers who in these
days swarm every where during the
choicest & brightest months of the year.

The chief excitements in the streets
in those days, after the soldiers, were
the drunken vagaries of a whaling crew
knocking down their 'lay', or the
antics of returned diggers driving about

in cab. Yet I am inclined to the opinion
that those old quiet summers with their
simple pleasures were more enjoyable
than the rush of gaiety which the
crowds of visitors bring with them.

July 22. Mary is trying to find a studio and
is going to start classes for Art Teaching.
She had an idea of taking a hay loft
in Antill St but gave up the idea, as
the place would be so cold in winter.
She is now trying to get one of the rooms
in the Stone building at the Barracks,
just vacated by the Girls Industrial School.

She ought to be capable of teaching
efficiently. She had 1 year at the
Slade School in London under Prof.
Lepros, reputed to be the first draftsman
in England. Then one year at the
Bushey Art School, under Prof. Hubert
Herkner RA. Finally a year at
the Carlarossi Studio in Paris,
where Jos. Blanc, Courtois, and Dapman-
Bouquet were the visiting Professors.
She worked hard & made good use of
her time - & can show some strong work.
In her holidays she managed to see a
good deal of England, & something
of France - Brittany, Mt St-Michel,
and the neighbourhood of Fontainebleau,
(Millet's country, Barbizon &c.)
She has acquired some of the Bohemian
spirit & a good deal of independence.

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In the recent terrible floods which did
so much disastrous damage to Brisbane.
Some 80 inches of rain fell in a week.
The 'Argus' reported that at Mooloolah 50 miles
North of Brisbane on the coast, 67 inches
fell in 3 days. At Coochin, in the Blackall
ranges, from 31 Jan'y to 8 Feb'y 1893, 80 inches
fell. At Yandina 73.36 inches. The
flood was limited, so far as the neighbourhood
of Brisbane was concerned, to the watershed
of the Brisbane & Stanley Rivers. The
Premier a tributary of the Brisbane rose
80 ft while the Harrill Creek another
tributary of the Brisbane was not even
in flood.

Talking at the Club one evening, W. S. T.
Walker of Sydney, Chairman A. H. Socy
told me that at a place on the Queensland
coast, I think Maryborough, ~~that~~ he had
seen 25 inches of rain in 24 hours.

Young Hamilton (Son of Sir Robt)
said that on the Station in Queensland
where he was, a creek which was dry
in summer rose 47 feet in 5 days.
Their wet season is from Feb'y to April
in that time the rain fall was eleven
and a half feet - ($11\frac{1}{2}$ feet) = 138 inches.

The Commercial Crisis in the Colonies is the most severe & disastrous that has ever been known. The root cause of our troubles is no doubt to be found in excessive borrowing - As long as English money could be got all the Colonies have been constructing public works, more especially railways. Many of these have been of the greatest importance to the colonies & pushed on settlement & development - But many have been political railways, quite unnecessary & only constructed by Ministers to buy votes. The scramble in N.S.W., but specially in Victoria, and to a large extent in Tas has been for the member for each district to get as much as possible for that district. Here the Sorell and Apsley lines have been the most scandalous examples. For the former I have heard no one out of Parliament say a good word. ~~The North West Coast line~~ It was built to conciliate John Lord, old Hodgson, & Jimmy Gray members for that part. The Chudleigh & Oatlands are similar instances of waste of money. The N.W. Coast lines are not much better, being made along the coast to connect ports, on which considerable sums were being spent to make them fit for vessels, under local pressure. Everything was on a scale of extravagance. Counsel the ~~Dep. Secy~~ ^{Dep. Secy} Paul told me that near the headwaters of the Mersey there is a fine timber bridge.

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nearly new, & absolutely useless as the approaches have not been made, and the road on each side the river is an unfrequented track. At Bruini Id last Easter 12 mos. I saw a fine square timber bridge over the Creek running out of the Lagoon (which Captⁿ Cook visited) giving access to 3 or 4 little plots of rough cultivation. There is nothing beyond & Gray told me a cart hardly ever went over it - not one a month. ~~The~~ rougher log bridge would have been ample, and yet this bridge cost £120 to £150. The jetties in the Channel (D'Entrecasteaux and Huon districts during Bird's tenure of office were a proverb. Someone happily parodied the 'One man, one vote' and said that as applied to the Channel it was 'One man, one jetty'. In some places not more than two or three persons used them, and yet they were put up at a cost from £100 to perhaps £300 or £400 or even more. These works provided work to little farmers who took the contract, provided profitable contracts & employment at high wages, and kept the Ministry popular & in office.

In Tasmania in Victoria all this developed a frantic land boom, in which land was sold over & over again by one syndicate to a succeeding one at ever increasing prices. Huge fortunes being

made - on paper. The first checks that came from high wages & this artificial prosperity was from the short sightedness of the working class. First the Shipping Strike, then the Shearers' Strike, & finally the Broken Hill strike, in which millions of money were lost & trade & enterprise crippled. The Shearers' Strike is said to have cost the Queensland Govt a quarter of a million sterling in hard cash.

Then the Land Room began to collapse, & Building Societies & Land Companies began to fall thick as leaves in Fallowbrosa. All sorts of frauds were laid bare and a few, a very few, got punished.

Then English capitalists got alarmed and the English papers cried out on the reckless extravagance of the colonies, which if persevered in must end in national bankruptcy. Warning was given that loans from England would not be forthcoming in the future.

Public works were stopped, violent & drastic retrenchment set in, thousands were thrown out of work, general distrust set in with the tightness of the money market - and ruin stared hundreds in the face. It was said that 20,000 houses in Melbourne were empty, a more moderate estimate was 11,000 - a sad change from two or three years before when the huge buildings 8 to 11 stories high were rising daily.

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Then the Banks began to totter, and prominent politicians & leading men found themselves amenable to the Criminal law. The Sir Matthew H. Paires Company became a bye word. Munro the Agent General had to return to Melbourne to account for his share in the ventures. First came the Federal Bank, then the Mercantile - all tainted with reckless trading and with actual fraud in many cases.

As the panic continued the Sound Banks began to feel that they could not stand the perpetual drain of specie. The Commercial Bank of Australasia - (H. G. Turner's) closed its doors to reconstructing owing £ millions in the colonies and £ millions to English & Scotch depositors. The English Scottish & New Chartered followed suit - and last week we hear the Australian Joint Stock in Sydney has been obliged to take the same course.

The immediate cause of our troubles in Tas was not a land boom, but next to the extravagant expenditure on public works must be sought in the West Coast Mining boom. Hundreds of thousands passed from hand to hand in share gambling. The population of Launceston ran up to 2000 to 3000, all living at a high rate, while not a pound's worth of mineral was being

Produced. No one wanted to develop mines,
It was more profitable & easy to take up
& float securities & gamble in shares.

2 Aug The immediate occasion of the collapse
was the stoppage of the F&D Bank
~~3 Sept 1891~~ 3 August 1891. The manager
H G Browne and the Directors (or at
least the Chairman W H Burgess) acted
on the assumption that the Boom would
last for ever and the Leichfield
prove not only one but a whole province
of Broken Hills. The facility with which
they lent money to speculators, often
on mining scrip, & ^{made} advances to others
on insufficient security had kept
the Boom going. Capital ran short
& their stock of gold ran low - till
the fatal day came when they applied
to the other Banks for assistance and
were refused. Indeed I doubt if any
help could have saved them in the
state of their accounts. Then the
mining boom collapsed, so that for
instance Silver Queen shares which
had run up to £9 came down to
1/6 and 2/- p share.

Everything has shrunk in value.
Property can't be sold at any price,
Trade has collapsed. General gloom &
almost despair prevails. And I fear
we have not seen the worst of it yet.
Have not come down to the bed rock.

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April 23.

For some weeks - ~~have~~ indeed for months - have suffered from insomnia. An attack of nerves such as I had some seven years ago. The suffering & depression at times are extreme, and a brooding fear often possesses me that my mind will fail or at least be weakened, and that perhaps I may break down altogether.

~~The~~ Up to September last our business - (that is the new firm's - E.B. & Holbagen -) seemed to be prospering wonderfully. Then on 24 Sept. last Cuttewat decamped and we found his deficiencies amounted to hundreds of pounds. Though in the event we are not likely to lose much - this disaster was a terrible strain on us both. It has shaken my nerves even more than I suspected at the time, although the mental anxiety & suffering was extreme then. Since then the constant anxiety about securities which are perpetually shrinking & the losses we make by clients, have been a constant strain on one's energies. Everything is a trouble, work is irksome, and there is a constant apprehension of worse things to come. The only consolation if it is a consolation - is that Penjafield says that the same trouble of nerves is afflicting large numbers - chiefly in consequence of anxiety & worry in these critical times. C. Barclay was obliged

say £200.

to take a trip home to England. Poor Mitchell is tormented with nervous depression - McIntyre has had to take 3 weeks to New Zealand. Probably our experience in business is that of every other Solicitor's office in Tasmania - and in some cases the securities taken have shrunk so that very large sums will be lost by mortgages. Although the securities I worry about involve only small sums and are few in number, it is impossible to avoid having lively apprehensions of worse things to come.

May 1/93

1. The last week has seen suspension of London Chartered Bank and yesterday the National Bank of Australia unable to stand the drain of deposits has also closed its doors, to reconstruct.

Today 'Mercury' issued extra with astounding news that the Victorian Govt has issued proclaimed a week's Bank holiday which will have the effect of closing all banks for this time & suspending business. The object appears to be to give the public panic time to calm down. The Australasia, Union, & N. Wales have protested, & will keep their offices open & do business so far as they legally can. It is not easy for us here to judge of the circumstances which have led the Govt to take such an unprecedented step. It seems however likely only to increase the panic & cause

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Actually it
proved to have
been on the
whole a wise
step.

a worse rush when the Banks reopen.
On other grounds it seems a suicidal
step, not so much as regards Australia
itself, but for its probable influence on
the Colonies' credit in England. So far
as one can see it will ruin the credit
of Australia in England for a generation.
It is almost like a declaration of
National bankruptcy.

The N.S.W. action where govt is introducing
a bill to make notes a legal tender is even
more fatuous & suicidal. Its effect will
necessarily be to drain N.S.W. of coin.

It seems as if before the panic is over
the only banks left will be the Union,
Australasia & N.S.W., which have
enormous reserves of coin - ~~to be~~ to be
6 or 7 millions each - & can sit secure
during the crisis.

It does not seem likely that Tasmania
will be much affected, except indirectly
through the depression in Victoria.

There is no local panic - but full
confidence in the Union, Australasia,
and the Commercial (of Tasmanian)

May 19. Since last entry there has been trouble in Queensland. The National Bank of Queensland has suspended with a view to reconstruction. Deposits about 8 millions, including the whole of the last Govt loan - some 2 millions. The Royal Bank of Queensland has also suspended. Later came the stoppage of the Commercial Bank (Sydney). The trouble has been brought about by the threatened withdrawal of all English deposits. Fortunately the Banks in this colony have no English deposits. This is our great safeguard. The deposits are all local. The effect on Bank Shares has been tremendous. Australasia a few months ago at £100 have sunk as low as £55. Unions have sunk in proportion.

The Melbourne bank holiday for a week appears to have had a good effect. Though since the proclamation the City of Melbourne ^{Bank} has suspended.

The effect of the N. Wales action making notes a legal tender, has not yet shown itself.

In Victoria the Govt are considering a plan for issuing Treasury notes which will be a legal tender.

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June 5.

I suppose no one who has not suffered from the nervous depression & exhaustion which is the result of continued insomnia can form any conception of the intense misery which it causes. It is not merely the weariness & irritability which is its immediate result, the irksomeness of all work, and flatness of life, but the haunting dread of worse things to come - the inability to look forward to the future with hope, the black darkness which surrounds one, the ~~new~~ constantly recurring conviction that softening of the brain, melancholia, or some other horrible form of brain trouble is imminent - which makes insomnia & its consequent nervous exhaustion one of the most bitter ills of life. Many a morning I have started broad awake at dawn or before it, every nerve feeling on edge, every muscle restless, forcing myself to lie still as the only way of mitigating the torment, while all sorts of dread possibilities took shape like substantial nightmares, presenting themselves not as merely possible but as inevitable. Compared with these, the minor anxieties, the matters of business which shook one with apprehension as doomed to disaster, seemed trivial. The prevailing horror was the feeling of helplessness in the grip of an inevitable fate advancing with slow remorseless doom. From the confessions of friends who sometimes in response to one's

own confessions, lift the veil of their own sufferings from similar attacks of "nerves". I should think that a large proportion of men who have to fight the battle of modern life, know something at least of this.

Mr. Sutcliffe, Dawson, & Worring, amongst my own friends have, I fancy, been down into the ~~horrible~~^{same} pit. After many weeks I have climbed, for a season at least, out of the horrible pit & the miry clay into the clear daylight, and life is once more tolerable, ay, and pleasant & hopeful. This time has been less terrible & less continued than my experience of some years since. It is probably due in large measure to the worry of Cutwear's defalcations some months since: for I notice that these worries have not such an immediate effect. It is generally some time after they happen that they produce this nervous condition. The worst feature of the case is that as one grows older there is less power to resist the fretting effect of such cares. I presume that the temperament is inherited, for my mother tells me that my father used in his later years to suffer greatly from sleeplessness, & I remember that he had the same lapses of memory & fits of depression which have it seems descended to his son.

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June 5. (cont) One thing there is to be thankful for, that though times are bad in Tasmania, we have not endured the same terrible collapse that has overtaken Victoria. The stories one hears of the state of things in Melbourne are most distressing. John Roberts told me that people who a year or two since had been living in luxury at Scotts Hotel, were now glad to crawl there as mendicants for the sake of the broken victuals. The ruin that has overtaken not only Speculators, but staid & sober people who invested their money in Sound Bank shares for investment is terrible to think of. Many have lost half their income, many more have lost everything. Men who have been lately in Melbourne speak of the aspect of the streets as most distressing, the gloomy care worn faces seemed to haunt the visitor. The misery of the host of unemployed is incalculable. Thousands are without work, suffering the pangs of want, even of starvation in its most desperate forms. Here there is much distress, but it is a trifle compared with the distress in Victoria & New South Wales. The unemployed here may be measured by 200 or 300. Bird has taken up their cause & opened an employment bureau, but the sympathy of these politicians

is measured by the political capital they hope to make out of it. The unemployed to Bird & to Robson & the Ministry, not to speak of other politicians, are merely a grindstone on which to sharpen their own private particular axes.

The Commercial crisis has pinched many in Tasmania. The H. L. Bank failure has been a cruel blow to not a few. It has crippled poor old George Clarke, & with other things has done much to break him down. The collapse in these & other Bank shares has struck many of my friends. Mrs. Sprent told me that her income had been reduced at least one half. Cecil Allport told me yesterday that he had lost £5000, in fact nearly all his savings, since the Bank broke. I believe ~~Mr~~ Frank J. Young's break down in health is due chiefly to the losses he has experienced through the failure of the Banks here in Victoria. Dawson's is due to mining ventures & their disastrous result. Though I have lost some hundreds through mining & Cuthebear's defalcations, I consider myself one of the most fortunate.

Here in Tasmania there is not the despair that prevails in Victoria. The prospects of the West Coast & the steady increase in the output of ore, have a strong influence in keeping people from

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June 5

despondency. I had a few minutes talk with Dr. Peters, the American authority on mining, who got £3000 for his work to report on the Mount Lyell Iron Blow. He impressed me very much by his modesty & moderation, so free from the blatant blow of the ordinary mining expert. He said that here we were just where the American mine owners were 30 years ago, when the exhaustion of rich lodes compelled them to consider the exploitation of low grade ores. He says that they soon found that with economical treatment it was the low grade ores in quantity that offered the best prospects of profit. He said that they had nothing in America at all comparable to Mount Lyell. He disregarded altogether exceptionally rich patches which would occur, & simply went on the calculation that there were so many millions of tons of ore, which did not need to be mined but simply quarried, & that this by economical treatment would give so much per ton profit. He said that he believed before long Tasmania would be one of the great mineral producing countries of the world. For the last 20 years I have always believed that the West Coast would prove our great mine of wealth, only needing time & capital to develop.

and it now seems as if this road in
measurable distance of accomplishment.
It is not merely the amount of wealth
that will be extracted from the district
but the stimulus of hope that the prospect
will give & the increased confidence
in the resources of the island, that
will tend to lift us out of our present
depression, & start us on a new era
of prosperity.

The fruit trade, if we learn wisdom
from our failures, should soon be a great
source of wealth to us in the South.
The shipment of unsound & inferior fruit
and the swindling of the London dealers
has stood very much in our way, but
I have some confidence that experience
will teach the growers to overcome both
difficulties & that with perseverance
a profitable market in England
may be established. Such a result
would be the salvation of the South,
than which I believe there is no
country in the world so well adapted
for the production of the finest quality
of fruits. Such as apples, pears &c.
But we have much yet to learn.
Last year everyone lost by their shipments.
This year it seems that they will make
a small profit, but scarcely enough to
pay the growers.

1893
July 6.

Dommer, who for the last year has been Manager of the Woolgrowers Co in K'ron, but has been a victim to retrenchment reductions, was in last evening. He gave us a deplorable account of the collapse in Melbourne. He says that whole streets of houses are empty. One man was offered a house in a terrace. No rent was asked. The only condition of occupation was that he should look after the rest of the houses in the terrace all of which were empty. In another case the address of a person was given as a certain street. "What number?" was the enquiry. "Oh, you needn't mind about the number. ~~That~~ This is the only occupied house in the street."

In the earlier days of the collapse when the various Land Co & Building Societies burst up, many people who had large liabilities got through by paying very small dividends - some a farthing, some a halfpenny & soon through the pence.

The Times some short time since stated the liabilities of the suspended Banks to be ninety millions sterling.

In Victoria especially it must be years before the Country can recover. The system of inflation, of coddled industries kept going by high almost prohibitive protective duties, which caused the abnormal development of the towns, until in Victoria with one million people Melbourne

contained 400,000 has utterly collapsed. The ruin of well to do commercial people and the destitution of vast numbers of unemployed working men is terrible. Of course all this trouble has been greatly aggravated by the strikes - the Shipping Strike - the Shearers' Strike - the Broken Hill Strike - all contributed largely to this result. Even now the Unions are obstinately resisting reductions of wages, but they will be powerless to resist the tide.

It was a fortunate thing for Tasmania that our crisis came early - earliest of all, and that the F&D Bank collapsed when it did - ³ Sept 1891. We were able to some extent to get our house in order before the general crash. If the F&D had struggled on until the suspension of Banks began in Victoria, the consequences would have been very much more disastrous. It might not improbably have been too much for the Commercial, & in that case many here, who are keeping their heads above water, would have been altogether overwhelmed.

Almost everyone, however, has some story of loss to tell.

Ed Parker told me that he sold out his Shares in Aust Joint Stock Bank some time since at £24 to £19.57. The Bank suspended & reconstructed. The shares are now to be bought at 14/9.

1893

July 10. Monday.

Since 31st March

At last we have had two consecutive days in which the sun has been visible. Such a dismal winter I do not remember. It seems nearly 3 months since we had any spell of decent weather - nothing but fog, damp, & drizzle, varied by occasional heavier rain - worthy of London itself. What has been noteworthy has been not so much the quantity of rain fallen, though that has been considerable, but the absence of the sun, the long spells of chilly, ~~wet~~ damp, cloudy, drizzly days, the weather which has such a depressing effect on the spirits, and during which one's closest friend is one's umbrella. It is said that we haven't had such a wet winter since 1849, though I remember one very like this when the Rev Cope (son of Cope RMA) was here about 15 or 20 years ago. The streets of Hobart have been simply indescribable. The Corporation plan of road making is to build the road with little or no crown, and cover it with stuff in the proportion of one load metal to two loads mud or clay. The consequence is that in wet weather, & particularly when the rain is not heavy, the streets are covered of mud, deep and of various degrees of stickiness or fluidity. The pavements, at least those that are flagged are full of worn & broken stones, forming pools which entrap & splat the unwary pedestrian. It has come

about that though asphalt pavements
have made the footways, even far into
the outskirts - Comfortable & practicable,
the pavements in the chief centres are
disgraceful ruins, and the streets, ~~are~~
which in former days used to be fairly
solid, are ankle deep of in mud during
winter, & ankle deep in dust in summer.

The bad weather and the low temperature
have had a depressing effect on most people,
and have been specially hard on the old.

Just at present several old ladies seem to be
hovering between life & death. Mrs Steele
is 82 and I fear dying from defective action
of the heart; her sister Miss Mauley is
78 also seriously ill, Miss Solly is 83
also hanging on to life by a thread.

The dear little mother at 82 is gradually
growing weaker, & the wheels of life going
slower. In her case it is the stomach
which is wearing out; for some years
the sick headaches, to which she has been
subject all her life, have left her, and
~~she~~ with their cessation she has suffered
severely from dyspepsia. The acute attacks
of pain have been extremely trying & wearing,
and more than once or twice we have thought
that she must succumb. About Easter
last year she went over to Kangaroo Point
for the last time, at that time she could
walk about, but a violent attack of
dyspepsia brought her down so much, that
we had to bring her back with but slender

1893

hopes that she would rally. He wrote to Mary to come at the earliest possible.

However she rallied, & after giving up solid food she had a comparatively easy time, with intervals of pain & depression.

When Mary arrived at the end of the year she was quite cheerful & like herself.

After each attack she has rallied in quite a remarkable manner, though each time it was plain she had lost ground and that the machinery was gradually wearing out. Two or three days ago she was greatly prostrated by pain & unable to keep down any food, but this morning though still very weak she had rallied & was quite cheerful. It is really marvellous to see what a rallying power she has even yet at such an age. It says much for the toughness of her constitution.

She was always small & thin, but now she has wasted or shrivelled till she is little more than skin & bone & is so light that she can be lifted more easily than a child. I notice a great failure in her memory of events long ago, but otherwise she has her mental faculties fairly enough. But she is so frail that it is nothing but Lizzie's devoted & assiduous nursing that keeps her alive. Lizzie is really wonderful. With all the wear of constant attention & broken rest - for she is often up nearly all the night, or at least many times in the night -

she keeps her health & spirits, though looking
fagged & worn. She has a vocation as a
nurse. Indeed she is one of the best nurses
I ever saw.

Poor Robert has had a bad attack of
illness, having been in bed for a fortnight.
The doctor (Benjafield) calls it influenza,
& says he has had a narrow escape of
congestion of the lungs. It is quite possible
that he may have had influenza, but I fear
it is really the development of the lung
trouble from which he has so long suffered.
Each year it seems to grow on him and
is gradually eating away his strength.

It is fortunate for them all that Gertie
has apparently found her vocation. She
has gone to the Hospital & seems to be
enthusiastic in nursing. I trust that
she will stick to it. A vocation like this
is her great chance; and maybe the door
to a useful life. Elsie is a fine girl.
She is a most capable mother for the family.

On the occasion of the marriage of the
Princess May to Prince George the New
South Wales government seized the
opportunity to exercise the prerogative
and release Sleath & the labour leaders
in the Broken Hill strike, who had been
imprisoned in Decr last for inciting the
men to violence. It was a happy way
of getting out of a difficulty without
weakening the law.

1893
July 19

This continuous wet or drizzling weather is most wearisome & depressing. A man said to day that it had been raining ever since the 1st April, & it is hardly an exaggeration. It is Irobart & the South that have suffered most, for the wind has sat steadily in the North & South East & we have had nothing but clouds & drizzle, until we might rival London. I don't remember such a season for 20 years, & most people say that is without a parallel since the forties. To those who like me are sensitive to meteorological influences it is a serious evil.

The poor little mother is very low. I fear very much that she will not be able to hold out long. The doctor calls it an influenza relapse, but I think if we could only have a wholesome invigorating North West, she would improve. The wind seems to have forgotten to blow from the accustomed quarter. They say the West has had exceptionally fine weather. Bothwell & Hamilton which have had something like a seven years drought are rejoicing, and even cry out for more. The season should be good for the pastoralists & give them abundance of grass, but agriculturists in the South are despairing. There is no chance of getting their crops in. As I write it is raining steadily. The sun has

grown as great a stranger as he is in London.

July 31.

I fear that the dear Mother's days are numbered. For the last week or 10 days she has been suffering from a severe attack of influenza. The fever, though not very high, seldom over 100, is severe in an old person whose temperature should be below normal. Her strength of constitution must be great, as she has rallied after several attacks, but she seems to have reached the limit of her strength, & at 82 there is little chance of ~~her~~ a favourable ending. To night she is very low - hardly having strength enough to respond when I speak to her - and I fear very much that she can hardly hold out more than another day, as she is quite prostrated. It is some poor satisfaction to think that she suffers little except from extreme weakness. Poor Nizzie, who has been a most patient & devoted nurse, bears up wonderfully. She is, during all the tiring duties of nursing, better in health than any of us - although she hardly ever gets outside the doors. As a nurse she is admirable, and does her work as quite a matter of course, without any notion that she is doing anything out of the ordinary course of domestic duty.

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Aug. 14. Friday. Yesterday ~~afternoon~~ morning when I went down to office the new electric trams were running trial trips in Macquarie Street to the great delight of numbers of idlers, and all the doctors buggies & a large proportion of butchers carts & other vehicles were being driven up & down after the trams ~~in~~ order to accustom the horses to the strange apparitions. They are ugly apparitions with their high staircase projections & uplifted arms, but they run easily & will be a great convenience. It is hard however to forgive the trams ^{& the telephones} for the net work of wires & forests of posts which now disfigure the main streets of the town. Our picturesque little city is ~~become a sort~~ covered with a sort of ugly spider web. One looks at it with astonishment & almost wonders whether it is really the same Hobart one knew in one's youth - say at the outbreak of the diggings in '51. How much less like the little rough village of 1823 when the Mathers arrived - Sorell being Consul. How far away that seems, like another century. And so the world changes, the old order giving place to new. Very few living links with those old days remain with us. And as these new inventions ~~make~~ their entry on our once quiet streets, one of my dearest links with the past is snapping, and the dear old Mother is slowly sinking

away out of a world which has long become strange to her - except her own home, almost a foreign place. I had hoped that with the return of fine weather we might have seen some rallying, but we have had some week or 10 days of lovely spring like weather, ~~but~~ the dear mother keeps sinking. She is now too weak to speak - at least too weak to rouse herself to answer if spoken to, at least with more than a whispered word. Tonight when I told her Frank & Uncle Sam had sent their love she did respond with 'Love to him'.

Now she hardly shows any sign of recognition when I go to her. Up to the last day or two she always brightened when I came. I suppose there can be no love so devoted as that of our mother - none that can be so absolute, so entire, so unselfish. It makes one humble to see such absolute trust and devotion. No one ever believes in you like your mother, and one hardly realises what such love is until one is about to lose it for ever.

Few now remain of the old generation who can take their memory back to the 'twenties'. With the dear mother the Mathers - who arrived in the 'Heroine' 10 Sept 1822 - will ~~all~~ be gone. All the rest are dead long since. Clarkes, Steeles, Hopkins, John Walker - all gone. Of the Mather family of that generation there only remains the youngest, born here, Samuel, a helpless

1893

Aug. 4 (cont) Wreck from creeping paralysis.

~~The~~ The T & D Bank Shareholders Meeting last week was a strange illustration of credulity - the quis vult decipi.

The liquidator Fitzgerald is one of the greatest charlatans in Hobart - a man with a certain dexterous cunning. He has gauged the folly of Shareholders to the bottom. While every man who knows, such as Barclay, Levison, & Young &c clearly see that all the Shareholders will be called on to the full, & then that the Creditors will not get 20% in the £, Fitzgerald keeps deluding the Shareholders by promising them that there will be no call - and they believe him!

At the meeting he said in substance "This liquidation which I am carrying through is without precedent in the history of Banking. Never has there been a liquidation in which so much has been got in, in so short a time, at so small a cost. I have done this, & done it in the face of an unexampled depression (cheers) Leave me to go on without any inquisitive or troublesome enquiries, & you will have to pay no call (loud cheer) But if you interfere with me & appoint any troublesome committees to ask awkward questions, I shall have to resign, & then I won't answer for the consequences (cheers) And so he parries all enquiry, &

(cont) the shareholders go away rubbing their hands & thanking Heaven that this year at any rate there will be no call and as to next year - well, who can tell what may happen before next year. His last scheme is a clever one, at least for the present purpose of keeping the shareholders in a good humour with him. He proposes "an Art Union" to get rid of £300,000 worth of securities & other properties. It is a most pernicious scheme, a big gamble to try to escape paying the results of a gambling bank business, & will unless I am much mistaken do much not only to demoralise the colony but to damage its credit abroad. And in addition to this it will almost certainly be a failure. But the shareholders are as pleased with it as a child with a new toy. They probably reason in this way - if it can be called reasoning:- "At any rate it will delay the call. If ~~we~~ take up tickets in this lottery ~~we~~ have the chance of winning a prize worth thousands, & if ~~we~~ I do that the calls, even if I have to pay them, can be easily paid". And so they shut their eyes, & rest contented hoping that the inevitable nemesis will not come. I don't doubt that this gambler's hope is largely present in Fitzgerald's own mind, as he has 1100 shares on which he can't pay unless he draws a big prize himself.

1893

Aug 14th (Wed) The 'Mercury' of course - does not Char Davies owe the Bank some thous ands - backs up Fitzgerald & his lottery scheme. Its report of the meeting showed everything couleur de rose - gave Fitzgerald's smooth flatteries in full, & carefully suppressed all awkward questions & criticisms by individual shareholders.

I fear that everyone will have a rather rude awakening before many months are over. Then probably the mismanagement of Fitzgerald may come out in a way that even his dexterous tongue may find it difficult to explain.

Aug^t. 16th Wed. On Sunday night the dear Mother was so low that I thought the end could not be far off. She lay in a state almost of collapse - ghastly in appearance - scarcely able to rouse herself to recognise those dearest & most familiar to her. Monday morning brought a change - once again she rallied - with that extraordinary power of vitality so strange in such a small & frail frame. Since then she has been herself - though very weak and weary, her speech low & often scarcely audible or intelligible, yet recognising those about her with affection and interest. How long this may continue no one can say. The mechanism of life is nearly worn out.

The political world is troubled - the black shadow of financial depression rests over everything. The present government have done what the last men - Lloyd & Bird - declared to be impossible. They have made substantial retrenchments. They claim to have reduced expenditure by £100,000. But they still want £70,000 more revenue to bring up income to necessary expenditure. Their first step was to increase the tea duty by 3^d per lb and the sugar by per c, with a primage of 1% on all imports. This has provoked a great outcry from the "friends of the working man." They say - and Bird has the effrontery to advance the same objection - that the Ministry have not been sincere in their desire to retrench - that they might do much more. The popular notion is that it is extravagance in departmental expenditure that is at the root of our troubles. The fact is that the saving that could under any circumstances be made in this direction is comparatively small. It is the interest £520,000 per ann for public works - including useless lines like the Sorell & Copsley - and the loss of something ~~like £100,000 more on these~~ - that is are the cause of our distress. More taxation must come. And then the cry is 'Tax wealth'. A right direction in which to aim, even though labour may find that in the end it is the chief paymaster. But the outcry against the

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Aug 16/cont) Increased duties on tea & sugar is irrational. They are taxes which will bear very lightly on the poorest, & will be almost unfelt in comparison to the amount they will bring in. The hardship is only a cry. Both tea & sugar have cheapened so much in the last 20 or 30 years that it would take an enormous duty to make them as expensive as they were in comparatively recent times. In my younger days white sugar was a luxury. All families of moderate means used yellow or even brown sugar - the coarser sorts almost black. Now the 'counter sugars' of old days are hardly seen, & the working man uses white sugar & pays much less for it than he did for the cheapest brown sugar in those earlier days.

But politicians - even such men as A J Clark. bow to the clamour, and the necessities of the poor man must not be taxed. So the Assembly has just rejected the ministerial proposals, or forced the ministry to abandon them. Yet it is only some 5 years since the duty was lowered to its present rate, & no one felt it. The ministry simply proposed to restore the old rate, which was unnecessarily & foolishly abandoned by Dodds in times of expanding revenue & exceptional (apparent & artificial) prosperity.

After nearly four months of the most gloomy winter weather I remember

for 20 years at least, we have had a spell
of perfect Tasmanian & spring weather -
the clear sunshine which goes far to make
simple existence a pleasure.

The new Governor, Lord Gormanston,
has been fortunate in such a first experience
of Tasmania. He came on Tuesday
the 8th, almost bringing the lovely
weather with him. I have only seen
him at a distance. He is portly and
rather ~~old~~ ^{than very} ~~than~~ ^{middle aged} ~~young~~ - a pious
Catholic and not disposed to hide his
devotion to religion - an Irishman
but a Unionist. He made his appearance
at the Royal Society last night, and
it seems - for I did not care to go under
present circumstances - made a favourable
impression. By a lucky chance the chief
subject for discussion was forestry and
the planting of pines, on which subject
he is an enthusiast. So his introduction
to the Society was calculated to interest
him in its work. If he is as constant
to it as Sir Robert Hamilton was
it will be good for the Society & the
colony. There are few institutions of
which and of the practical work
of which Tasmania has more reason
to be proud than of the Royal
Society, which has now, (if we include
its forerunner, Franklin's Tasmanian
Society) more than passed its Jubilee.

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Aug 16 (cont)

A sign of the times. A month since I swore an affidavit of Assets in Mrs Steel's Will. Union Bank shares were set down at £44.10 or £44.15. This week, indeed to day, I prepared similar affidavit in the estate of her sister, Miss Mauley. I have had to set down Union Bank at £37. The immediate cause is a drop in the last dividend from 12% to 8%.

Lat Lorrimer, formerly a fashionable young man about Melbourne, & clerk in Gibbs Bright & Co., Son of the professor of Law in the University of Edinburgh, and for the last year Manager of the Woolgrowers Assocn in Launceston, has taken the Hotel at Port Arthur. More signs of the times! He had a scheme for taking Pressland House from Mrs Clements, but fortunately for him, in my opinion, this did not come off.

Aug 31.

(26 Aug)
The dear Mother died last Saturday. Since last date she grew slowly worse. The recurring fever made her very restless, her weakness & weariness were extreme. She seemed at times to suffer a good deal. Towards the middle of the week she appeared to be sinking into a state of partial consciousness, occasionally ~~was~~ sleeping much, and only at times showing signs of clear recognition. In the former stage of her illness she frequently

seemed anxious about my staying, I hoped I was not going away anywhere, but during the last few days ~~only~~ was merely able to make faint signs of recognition. On Friday she was only just able to show at times that she recognised us, & seemed to suffer a good deal though probably the starts & apparent distress were largely involuntary. On Saturday morning it was evident the end was near, and in the afternoon Dr. Cox met me in town with a note from Isa which brought me home. This was between 5 & 6. The dear soul was then quite unconscious. The end came at about 4 to 7 when her spirit passed away. Only the girls - Lizzie, Sara, Mary & Isa - and myself were with her.

It was not until the next morning, that I ventured to go and look upon her again. I had feared to see marks of suffering & change, but all that had passed away. Her face was perfectly beautiful. Only a sweet solemn dignity, an unspeakable eternal calm. There seemed no room for sorrow but a solemn thankfulness for her, and the feeling of the hymn of St Francis. "Praised be my Lord for our sister, the death of the body, from whom none escape. Blessed are they who are found walking by thy most holy will, for the second death shall have no power to do them harm". The sweet Sunday morning seemed to harmonize with that feeling - one of those

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Aug 31.

still peaceful & pure spring days, where
nature is all perfect peace.

The dear mother was buried on Tuesday
morning. Robert & Lou Matthee, Douglas
Kelley & Frank Heyward bore her from
the gate to the grave. There were a few
of our old friends present, and Henry
Propsting, Saml Clever & the children of
the Friends School met us at the ground.
The Matthees, Gertie, Elsie, & Minnie, Hannah
Giblin & a few more of the women folk.
Friends had sent exquisite flowers.
Sah & Isa stood with me at the head
of the grave. From the silence came
Frank Matthee's voice speaking in simple
& beautiful words of her gentle passing
away, and of the beauty & blessedness
of the quiet lives which are the salt of
the earth. Henry Propsting also spoke,
& Ridley in words of prayer gave thanks
for her life & the mercy which had blessed
her. And all the while in the calm
pure spring morning a skylark ~~was~~
overhead poured itself out in song.
Then we went back to the home in which
she had lived with us for more than
twenty years, with that strange sense
of the blank that was left.

All our friends have shown their
sympathy and kindness in many
touching ways.

Sept. 3. Tuesday. Last night our reading circle met at Stephens' (117) to discuss the papers of F. S. Young, W. H. Dawson, & Hebblethwaite. Subject 'What think ye of Christ?' Young's was the paper - a trenchant criticism on the defects of Christ's teaching - a sweeping condemnation of his maxims on Almsgiving, mutilation, non resistance, blessed-carelessness, & disregard of family ties. I read a paper in which I tried to translate Christ's teaching into modern terms, on the lines of M. Arnold's 'St Paul & Protestantism', and to show that the root of his teaching was love to God or in Arnoldian phrase "to the Universal order;" & that his kingdom of heaven, while it contemplated a future existence, was essentially a present kingdom, the result of an inner & moral revolution, and a kingdom into which every one entered who brought his heart into harmony with that Universal Order which is the Spirit of Christ. The paper was a failure. The hearers were unsympathetic, it and it fell dead. The idea is essentially true but it was badly worked out. Moreover it must be admitted that the idea of Universal order would not have satisfied Christ, for his faith was in no cold eternal order, but in a Father who personally watched over each one of his children & who would in a literal world to come reward them openly. Still I maintain

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Sept 3/cont) that translated into modern phrase
the teaching of Christ, stripped of its
Hebraisms, does contain this essential
& fundamental truth, good for these
times, and it is in consequence of this
eternal reality contained in it, over
& above the ideas which relate to a future
state, which will make it enduring for
humanity. It shows how far we have
gone from the old ways, ^{and} ^{a thing} which
I never realised so fully before, that
all of us, Clemes included (& perhaps
only, excepting Hebblethwaite) agreed
that it was impossible to recover the
historical Christ; that neither his
character nor teaching were unique;
that his maxims, if not his teaching,
were inapplicable to modern conditions;
that the ideal of Christ which has
grown up through centuries was
something quite different from the
historical fact; that the resurrection
was not a physical fact - e.g. Paul
puts his own vision on a level with
other appearances. Clemes & I were, I
think, the only ones who positively held
to the belief that the ideal ~~of~~ Christ
was the highest ideal known to humanity,
though that was only higher in degree
but not in kind than that of other
great teachers - e.g. Buddha; and though
admitting that if we were in India &
we might well say that our ideal of

Spent the best night he expressed in terms of
Buddha or Brahma. I think we were
the only ones who held to the faith in
Something outside ourselves which was
a reality of which was a fact as true
as any fact shown by Science. Hobbeltwaite
no doubt agreed, but did not speak.

F. J. & M. Young were antagonistic taking
the agnostic & critically impartial view.
A. J. Clark raged against evangelical
Christianity as an abomination & thought
there had been many men as admirable
as Christ, or even more so. Burn &
Stephens were fairly sympathetic.

No one maintained that the idea
of a Father individually careful of each
of his children could be seriously
supported... A depressing discussion.

It was a strange contrast to talk
to night to Joseph D. Heave, who has just
returned from his visit to Russia on
behalf of the persecuted sects, and who
has the most simple & absolute belief
that the Heavenly Father directly sends
men to certain work, & directs & orders
consciously the minutest details of
their lives. He gave me many instances
of the divine leading & care over them
in all their mission - a care as real
to him as his very existence. One can't
help feeling that this faith - or belief - gives
a man an enormous power and courage,
chiefly because it takes away all fear of

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Sept 3 (cont) Men. At the same time it is an enormous presumption, which would be intolerably offensive, if in I believe it ~~was~~ not accompanied by such a genuine humility. He gave us much that was very interesting of his visit to the religious exiles or fanatics in the Trans Caucasus - of Count Khilkoff (Hilkoff) who has given away all his property, except enough to bring him & his family \$20 a year - who has ~~given~~ ^{thrown} up his brilliant prospects in the Army, in which he distinguished himself greatly in the Turkish War - & who has literally given up everything for Christ's sake. Also of Count Tolstoy whom they saw at Moscow & who holds the same ideas of literal obedience to Christ's maxims, but whose wife has prevented him from parting with his property. I'll say the dissidents from the Greek Church are called Paskoffists, and in St Petersburg, - ~~and~~ ^{they} are really Plymouth Brethren, the result of Lord Radstock's influence in Russian Society - & that many of the highest rank, especially women, are adherents. He mentioned the wife of a leading General, who is very high at Court & who was very civil to them, though he had no sympathy with the dissidents. The high officials & nobles were very civil & hospitable to them. Through Count Koroutzef Daschkoff, a high Court official, they were able to

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sent two letters to the Czar himself direct,
in which they spoke very closely to him;
in Quaker fashion, on his persecution
of men for religious opinion, & which
they say they had reason to think were
favourably received. They also were
had interviews with the leader of the
repressionist & persecuting party, the
bigot Pobédénostzeff, formerly tutor
to the Czar & high in his favour, & were
very hospitably received by his family.
It is plain from what he says that
the repressionists look on dissidence
from the Greek Church, as treason to
the State, and dread any movement
in that direction as dangerous to the
existing order which is based on the
reverence of the peasants to the Czar
as practically Pope as well as Emperor.

In their simple enthusiasm they
attribute much greater weight to the
effect of their protests, made as they
believe in the name & power of the Lord,
than they can possibly have with
the intriguing courtiers of the Czar.

Bellows, the author of the French
dictionary was John's companion in
his mission which has kept him from
home for a year & 10 mos.

I have published a pamphlet in defence
of the University - "Can we afford it?" for
distribution among members of Parl -

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Sept 11. Monday - C Maxwell told me that at a meeting of the South Melbourne Board it was stated that 10 large manufacturing firms carrying on business in South Melbourne district had reduced their wages £300,000 per ann, while the Melbourne Harbour Trust had nearly 15 vessels laid up & had reduced the wages it paid by £100,000 per ann. This is an indication of the state of things. Truly the colonies have had a merry dance, & are now sadly paying for the music.

Our Parliament have increased the Customs duties, put on in addition a primage on everything of 9^d in the £. Have doubled the Land Tax, making it 1^d in £ on Capital value, and are proposing to put on an Income Tax of 10^d in the £. The Customs revenue has fallen off at the rate of £10,000 per month as compared with last year. If the revenue, for all the increase of taxes, does not produce what is estimated which is not improbable, we shall have to go in for modified repudiation, that is, defer payments, if not of interest, at least of the capital of loans falling due, & which we may quite possibly not be able to raise loans to replace except at a ruinous discount. The great point is to raise money somehow & that quickly, & yet without, such as Bid, Genton &c,

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are only concerned to make political capital out of opposing the Government schemes of taxation.

I have put out a pamphlet in defence of the University, called "Can we afford it?" which some of my friends speak of with approval. It will be a disastrous mistake of the members in their panic for retrenchment at all hazards, cut off the Educational establishments. They have done so with the Technical School, but are now more or less repentant & may restore it. The great ~~fault~~ ^{defect} of this Colony is intellectual sloth, & they would perpetuate it. Intelligent education would be worth to us many thousands per ann.

Monday October 2.

The new electric trams began to run on Thursday, 21 Sept ulto and have on the whole worked well. The system is overhead wire, two arms from the top of the car pressing against the wire & conveying the current to the motor which is placed below the body of the car - the machinery & below the car weighs 4 tons which makes the car safe. The cars are good & would be rather handsome, if it were not for the top seats on top, ~~which~~ with a roof over them, above which stretch the two arms. Round the upper division & surrounding the top seats are painted advertisements.

1893

Oct. 2.
(Cont.)

which go far to make the car hideous in appearance. As might be expected when the drivers & conductors are quite unskilled & have their work to learn things did not work well at first but are improving.

My first trip was on the first day at dinner time from Stone Buildings to Antill Street - everything went admirably.

On the Sandy Bay & New Town lines the cars have distinguished themselves by running off the rails. This has generally happened at the points (which are self acting) & at corners. It is largely due to imperfect rails - The rails are not proper tram rails but old L.M.R. rails laid side by side. The first time I went out to New Town, we were 45 minutes reaching the Maypole & then the current stopped thro' a switchbox going wrong. & I had to come in on the bus. The second time I went out (Sat. week) we took 48 min to Coolleys, and ran into Arnold's pony cart, the pony backing into the line on a panic, & endangered the life of the baker - a fat man who fell face down between the pony's tail & the cart.

~~Yes~~ On Sat. I went out to Summerhouse with Mr Williams - we got to Hales at 10 min to 7, the tram was late & didn't start until 7.20 - (They were supposed to be running every quarter of an hour) When we got up to the Baptist Tabernacle the car ran off at the points. On backing

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Again the car ran off again & we had a great display of electric sparks, lighting up all the lower part of the car as if it was on fire. We got off & walked on. When we reached the Maypole the car overtook us & we got on board, reaching the terminus after 8:30 - or rather 8:45.

The trams have been quite the sensation for the last 10 days. I should think that nearly all the children in Hobart have ridden on the top, & it has been quite the fashionable amusement for all classes, particularly with the women to make trips on the different lines for pleasure. During the first few days Elizabeth Street was thronged with people watching the new ~~two~~ conveyances. But people are growing accustomed to the novelty, & one now hears the constant toot-toot of the horn (sounded by a bellows moved by a rod with a knob on the top) without noticing it. The cars have made quite a panic among the horses. For the first few days scores of horses & carts thronged the streets following the cars to get the horses accustomed to the strange monsters. One never takes a trip without seeing some absurd incident from a panic struck horse, but fortunately by extraordinary good luck there has ~~has~~ yet been no serious accident. The worst has been running over a dog, & so frightening an old horse that

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Oct 2 (cont) he fell dead.

On Sunday week I walked to Brown's River by the Water works & Ridgeway. The party consisted of F.S. & F.M. Young & W.H. Dawson & myself. F.S. Young takes very pessimistic - or, as he says, Malistic - views of the state of the world. He says that in a very few years we shall see the break up of the industrial system, & have a Social revolution. Certainly the Labour troubles, the huge strikes - the last being the miners strike in England involving tens of thousands - the misery of the proletariat, the spread of socialistic views, & the general unrest, make every one who thinks very apprehensive. There is no doubt that some very radical changes are impending, but whether we shall have a huge social catastrophe, or whether, as is more likely, the changes will take place by degrees & more or less peaceably, it is impossible to predict. Young says he is a Cassandra to whom no one will pay heed though "the bridal dawn of thunder peals" is beginning to usher in the new era. It is strange that the English papers write as if the present order were to last for ever.

Our reading circle, in which F.S.'s influence is predominant, is very agnostic in tone. It is to me a depressing creed, against which I rebel violently. But

it is difficult to avoid the influence, & so far as argument goes they have a great advantage over those of us who can only assert our faith in an unseen world, and a power behind the phenomena, which phenomena are after all the only thing on which science (ie the experience of phenomena) can have anything to say.

Am suffering somewhat from insomnia, or at least broken sleep. Never sleep more than about 4 hours at a stretch - & often less. Perhaps get, on an average, about 6 hours. This, and the worry of the depression & fall in value of property - which imperils a good many mortgage securities - are wearing to one's strength, & make one feel that age is coming on.

Tuesday. 28th November

The Parliament has nearly run out its term, and is about to be dissolved. Candidates for the new House of Assembly are beginning to declare themselves. Parliament was prorogued without settling the financial tangle, & gave Ministers only 3 or 4 months supplies.

Though the financial difficulty is quite complicated enough, the history of the Session is simple. The first proposal of the Dobson Ministry was an increase of the tea & sugar duties. This passed by resolution of the Assembly, but there was such an

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Nov 28 (cont) outcry from the working man's friends that the members got alarmed and the government withdrew the measure, returning the duties collected.

The scheme proposed by the Government as passed by the House, included an increase of Land tax from a halfpenny to 1^d in the £, with an exemption from extra tax of all proprietors under £1000 capital value; an Income Tax of 10^d in the £; a privilage duty on all imports of 9^d in the £; and increased Probate duties, in which for the first time in Tas. real estate was included; as in all the other colonies.

The Legislative Council threw out the Income Tax, but accepted all the others, with this modification, that they struck out the exemptions as respects real estate under £1000. A strong point made in this case by Fysh, leader of opposition, who has always posed as a democrat and friend of the working man, was that this introduced the principle of graduated taxation as a temporary measure - (The taxes were asked for 1893 only) and that such a radical innovation should be deliberately settled by a new parliament, but that this present parliament should not be allowed to introduce it & so get it established. In his opposition he had the support of his old enemies the large landed proprietors. They very naturally were opposed to the exemption, & had very strong grounds for

their opposition. They had always opposed, against much popular clamour, the extravagant expenditure on railways & other public works, knowing very well that eventually the payment for these would fall on them. The working man, and the small landed proprietors had been the strongest advocates of wasteful expenditure. The small Cockatoo farmers had perhaps been the people who had benefited most by the outlay. They had added to their income either by taking small contracts or working on the new roads &c, and had found a large source of profit in the works. It was undoubtedly unfair that the opponents of waste should alone be taxed, and those who had forced it on the Government and had profited by it should be especially exempted from extra taxation. The Council, having thrown out the income tax, were wise enough to pass the other taxes proposed, but could not swallow the exemption. They would have been wiser to have accepted it, as the progressive tax was sure to be popular, & if rejected for 1893, would probably be forced on them permanently in a worse form. Moreover, the House had a strong constitutional point. By rejecting the exemptions it was argued that the Council was acting beyond its powers, & in fact imposing a new tax on the small landholders.

The amendments of the Council went

back to the Assembly. The House was strongly inclined to resent what they considered to be the unconstitutional action of the Council, but eventually resolved to offer a compromise, and reduced the exemption to landowners of £250 only.

This was a compromise that the Council would have been wise to have accepted. However they steadily refused to allow any exemption. The Assembly refused to accept this, and the Government then took supplies for 3 (or 6) months, and prorogued Parliament.

The complication is serious as the needs of 1893 are not provided for, and the Council have sent the government with a food cry - a progressive landtax in its mildest form - which is almost certain to be popular.

Fyfe, as might be expected, when he had a chance of embarrassing his political opponents, has thrown his old protestation it would be absurd to call them principles to the winds, and has effected a league with the large landholders.

The Bishop told me the other day that he has 50 parishes in his diocese, and that it takes him 180 days in the year simply to get thro' the confirmations at the different churches.

1893.

28 Nov/cont) The electric trams are a great success, and are very extensively used. It is said the takings are £40 per day, and the working expenses about £20 per day, or at most £1000 per month. They are a wonderful convenience, running every quarter of an hour, and people wonder how they managed to do without them so long. Everything, however, has its drawbacks. Most of the buses have had to succumb, although both the New Town buses (Cooley's) & those to Sandy Bay (Hogan's) still keep going on a reduced scale. While Webster's Quay Street bus, a very good & convenient service for this part - is hardly affected. The cabmen suffer most. Not only from the rivalry of the trams, formidable as that is, but from the fact that people (especially ladies) rather dread cab drives on account of the horses' restiveness when meeting the ponderous tram cars. It is said that nearly 200 horses have been thrown out of work. This, with the drivers, is a serious item. Many of the bus drivers (especially Cooley's men) have been taken on as tram drivers.

I begin to tremble for the University. It is unpopular. Even a man like old Woolnough - a graduate of Oxford - speaks of it as a luxury which under present conditions we can't afford. My pamphlet

1893

28 Nov (cont) Showing that no saving could be made at present, had some influence in preventing an attack this year. (The Bill fixing the vote at £3000 passed without even a remark) But when the Lecturers' time is up in 1895, the opponents will doubtless make a big try to abolish it.

Meantime Stephens & I are doing all we can to keep the Lecturers to get the University properly organised - It has cost me an immense amount of work, and I can only hope that the work won't be in vain, for I look upon it as one of the most valuable and best expenditures of money that the State makes. We have 26 students in our first teaching year. This is far better than we ever ventured to hope.

There is no sign of improvement in affairs generally. The only cheering feature is that we have had, so far, a splendid season. The spring has been perfect, and I never remember the country to have looked so luxuriantly beautiful. The neighbourhood of Hobart has been a picture of green fertility. Even now, when the hay is beginning to be cut, the bloom has hardly gone off.

Sunday - 25th Feb 1894

This week has been marked by one of those miserable domestic tragedies, which are every now & then the outcome of the worship of the Goddess of Lubricity. A very respectable man named Hornoye, clerk in T. Wood's, had reason to suspect his wife of too great intimacy with a letter carrier named Knight. Instead of going to business in the morning he concealed himself in the house with a revolver. Knight came to the door, came into the house & began to embrace the wife. Then Hornoye stepped out & shot him thro' the head, and as he fell, put another bullet thro' his head from the other side. The medical evidence went to show that ~~Knights~~ there was no doubt about Knight's intention. It is said that Knight, a man with a wife & two or three children, was in the habit of boasting of his successes with married women. His death was a righteous retribution.

Even a worse case than this. W. Saville Kent, formerly Inspector of Fisheries here, & a scientific man of some mark, was invited to stay at the house of Mrs M., an old crippled lady of some 82 years of age, who lived in a small cottage, with a young granddaughter who cared for her. The granddaughter was a clever good girl, well brought up, educated, intelligent, & of unimpeachable character and

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conduct, against whom there was not a breath of scandal or account of her behaviour. This Kent seduced the girl and induced her to leave her home with him for Melbourne. Kent is a married man over 40 - It is a great pity that the girl has not some relative who would follow Kent and shoot him at sight. A more dastardly crime than his it would be hard even to imagine.

Commercial & financial matters in Tasmania look very black, and it seems to me inevitable that they will be worse. Property is absolutely unsaleable. Burn told me that he had put up £50,000 worth of property recently & had only sold £50 worth. People would not even bid. Everyone is retrenching, & altho' more taxes may be put on, it is doubtful indeed whether any more revenue will be gained. As John Roberts said to me the only hope for recovery, at least within the next few years, is the development of the West Coast mines. And this is necessarily a slow process. The Mount Lyell promises to be as great a mine as the Spanish Rio Tinto; but it will take time to develop.

The public finances are in a desperate state, and yet the rival factions will not suspend their wrangling. Parliament meets on Tuesday, and then the question will be, not how the difficulties can

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be met, but whether Braddon can wrest office & pay from Dobson. It is pitiable. A people who can stand this sort of faction fighting in the face of such a momentous crisis, is doomed to suffer, and deserves to suffer.

Tuesday. 28 Feb.

Hormoyle has been tried. The jury brought in a verdict of manslaughter, the judge having charged for murder, but varied the other verdict by saying that he would not refuse it. That it was murder there can be no doubt. Hormoyle addressed & posted an envelope to his wife, which secured a meeting between her and the postman, he armed himself with a revolver and lay in wait for the man, & yet they found manslaughter. The Chief sentenced him to two years imprisonment. I think he should have had 7 years. The law ought not to proclaim that a man may lie in wait to murder & escape with impunity. He may have some strange results from such a doctrine. I speak on public grounds. Notwithstanding which I am of opinion that Hormoyle did quite right in shooting Knight, and if I had been on the executive would have been ready to shorten his sentence if it had been a long one.

R M Johnston gave me a copy of his Handbook for 1893. It contains some pages 94 et seq. which show that the crisis in Australia was not due to local

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Feb 28

but to world wide causes - being the collapse of the credit cycle which blossoms regularly every 10 years or so. Perfectly true, and not without comfort to us in these days. He only went mad with the rest of the world - but perhaps we went a little more mad than the rest.

We were worse off in 1869-70. The country itself was then in a worse position. But in 1869 we had no public debt to speak of, and what makes the situation grave just now is that 150,000 people have to send away £1000 per day for interest on foreign loans.

The worst feature of politics is the utter absence of public spirit in people and politicians. Each man working for his private advantage or for personal reasons. Bradburn scarcely caring to conceal his cynical disregard of every consideration but office, even A. J. Clarke allowing himself to be swayed by personal feeling & the love of suiting an opponent to the disregard of the needs of the country for united & combined action. Bird was to day elected Speaker by 18 to 11, as a mark I suppose of the appreciation of members of his utterly unscrupulous & fatuous management of the treasury - using it as a gigantic fund for purchasing support by saddling the colony with an enormous debt for works, which have been in many instances absolutely useless - or worse.

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I am sorry for poor old H. J. Brown -
although one can't forget his share in the
way of extravagant expenditure on such
works as the Sorell line & the Ipswich line.
Nor can one disguise the fact that his
defeat in Cumberland was due to his
overweening confidence. But we must not
forget that Braddons & Bird suppressed
Back's adverse report which would have
made the carrying out of the Sorell line
an impossibility if the report had been
allowed to see the light.

Sydney told me some days since
that the trams are taking £1600 p.m., &
that their expenses are £1000 p.m. I take
this cum grano salis. Very shortly the
expenses of maintenance will be heavy.

There is a movement for electric
trams in Lancaster. The city engineer
calculates they will cost £20,000. Cdey
Douglas in conversation a day or two
since said that this was too much,
& with that outlay they could not pay
the Corporation.

Sunday. 27th May 1894

Last night engaged from 7.30 to 11 with H. Elliott Lewis on new legal Practitioners Bill. Lewis is one of the very, very few prominent politicians in whom public spirit is at all marked. A. J. Clark is another, though party warfare has done something to deteriorate him. I doubt if either of them can in this respect come up to poor old W. R. Giblin. As to Fysh and Braddon, politics is for them a game for their own advantage, and they are almost cynically regardless of appearances in setting their sales to the least breath of popular fancy or prejudice. Moore on the contrary in spite of much egotism is not without a good deal of honest public spirit & so is Henry.

When Parliament met in March (?) the Dobson govt brought in their Financial Scheme: Income Tax - Land Tax graduated from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 in £ on capital value, Probate duty on realty, alterations in Customs. Braddon's vote of want of confidence defeated by 5 votes. They carried Income Tax through Assembly by two votes, but were defeated on graduation of Land Tax by one vote. Dobson's want of steadiness and tact were the weak point in the Ministry with another leader they would have pulled thro'. He ruined them by his reckless eccentricities. They were not a happy family. Dobson & Henry especially had very strained relations. I think Douglas Lewis were glad to resign. On resignation of Dobson, Braddon was sent for ^{and becoming Principal without office} Bird being provided for, Fysh as Speaker, Fysh took Treasury, Moore Chief Secretary, Clarke Atty Genl, Pillingen Lands with Reidy without office. Piesse resigned to give Fysh seat in Assembly unopposed. Gault Buttes contested Buckingham with Piesse for Council, but was defeated by 4 votes. It is not a bad team.

Fysh is most capable man in the House for the Treasury but is quite without any political principle except that of living by politics. Moore a strong Chief Secretary - Clark good. Unfortunately Moore seriously ill which gives Braddon a free hand for mischief. They state tax on unimproved Capital value to be their policy, but this year will only increase existing taxes to make up deficient revenue, deferring reconstruction of taxation until next Session.

Braddon's first Scheme is dismissal of a number of chief officials, especially those entitled to pensions. The pensions to be commuted out of Sinking Fund which will pay the pensions during lives of holders and be repaid by equal payments spreading over 30 years. R.M. Johnston's Scheme - saving for the present some thousands yearly. Like all Braddon's Schemes this is largely (except as to Pensions) a paper reform. The officials to be dispensed with are many of them the most capable, and men will be advanced who are incompetent in many cases to do the work, which will probably cost the country more than the saving in Salaries. Amongst them are Stephens (Education) Adams (Reg. Secy) Solly (Asst. Col. Secy) Hunt (Reg. & at L. & Co.) Fricham (Chief Engineer &c) Lovett (Aud. Genl) Scope is given for Braddon's personal antipathies, and there will be a lot of private jobbery in promotions. It has been arranged without conference with Heads of Departments, though the Subordinates have been in many cases taken into Council. Poor Stephens is greatly distressed, more at the prospect of his work being undone by Rule's fads than by the pecuniary loss.

Twenty five years ago much the same thing happened under J. A. Chapman, the beginning of his

decadence, when under the cry 'Retrenchment or Ruin' wholesale reductions were made in the Civil Service to make a temporary saving. Many of the best men being driven out, to the wholesale disorganisation of the Service. It took another 10 years or more to undo the mischief done and reestablish efficiency.

There was then the same dread of new taxation, yet taxation has been growing steadily since, and, in spite of present depression, it is my belief that we are better able now to bear what we have, than we were then to bear the lesser burden. If times improve, as they must, it will not be felt as a heavy burden except in sentiment. The dangerous element now is that we have a worse house of more ignorant members, less educated, more ready to try wild schemes as a panacea, and to play to please the populace & to gain a momentary popularity for personal ends.

Property is falling rapidly, but has I fear not reached its lowest. It must do so until it reaches a price when it will return a fair profit on capital. Compare with present prices - Sale of our $4\frac{1}{2}$ ac. in Holbrook Place for £500 in 1869-70, the land having been bought some 15 or ²⁰ more years before for £500 - Sale 3 or 4 years later to Sir J. Smith for £1000 - and then when Sir H. K. Dobson bought land from Smith at a high price, so that Smith might retire from C.I. Ship ^{some years ago} - land was cut up, Mr Depraves buying half for some £1200, & J. Maxwell the other half for £1300 or so, altogether say £2500 - or five times its price 20 years before.

I have been translating from Dutch periodicals all the articles I can get on Tasman - also Tasman's original journal of 1642 voyage (from Stewart's edⁿ) and intend writing a series of papers, or monograph, on Tasman his life and discoveries. There is no sufficient account of either in English - only a notice of him very brief in Encyc Brit, and the abstract of 1642 voyage in 'Barnes's Discovery in the South Sea'.

A few days since a Jew from Sydney came here to float a mining scheme. According to him there ~~was~~ close to Mt Huxley, a "mountain of gold"; so rich that the gold obtained will in a few years seriously reduce the value of the metal, and settle the question of bimetallicism. He said that altho' the shares were applied for over & over again in Sydney he wished a few people in Tasmania to have an interest in it & therefore came here to offer them to a select few of his "personal friends." Mr Crosby & other very cautious people, who were invited to attend a meeting at which he expounded his scheme, took up a few shares, but the general impression is that it is an impudent swindle.

[And so it turned out to be shortly afterwards] see post p 113.

Tuesday. 5th June 1874

All Saints Unemployed Relief Fund
Originated with Rev^d S. Bucknell & All Saints
District Visitors. First meeting held yesterday
week and various suggestions made. A
Committee appointed on which my name
was placed, (altho' I was not there). On
Friday meeting of Committee at W. Bucknell's
house. Much discussion on schemes. General
consensus that only in case of people unable
to work should food be given, but that those
in distress should be employed on works of
a public character - also that the wages
should not exceed 4/- per day at the most, so
that men should have no inducement to
remain on the list, but have a strong incentive
to seek other work. The principal difference
of opinion was as to the works to be under-
taken. Fitzgerald & some others strongly
advocated all works should be within the
district that the whole scheme was a local
one. The Domain Committee offered to
provide work in improving Domain for
men sent by All Saints' Committee, & give
certificates on which our Com. would
pay them - wages proposed not exceeding
£1 per week. I urged the acceptance
of this at any rate at first - that the object
was to give the greatest amount of help to
the distressed in our neighbourhood, and
was in that respect 'local'; but that to
make it "local" in the other sense would
be mischievous if the local work involved

dissipating considerable portions of the funds in material, tools, & supervision - and moreover that before beginning local works plans would have to be prepared and this would involve considerable delay. It was stated that the Corporation would undertake certain local works and grant some money & materials and supervise, if the subscribers would contribute part of the cost. It was agreed that this would be a very desirable arrangement as the funds of the Com. wd not only ~~not~~ be all available for wages for unemployed but they would actually be supplemented.

At a second meeting last night in All Saints Schoolroom, a report to above effect was submitted and passed, and the Committee made permanent. An executive Com. was chosen aftds by the Genl Com. Bucknell (Chairman) Maule (Treas) F L Butler (Secy) C Maxwell, Miles (City Surveyor) and myself. To night the Executive Com met at C Maxwell's. The parish was divided into district to be canvassed by ladies for Subs. Considerable discussion on works to be proposed. Majority in favour of local works, but using the Domain in interim. Garden Crescent advocated by Maule & others, the objections being the extensive work, outlay for materials &c. and that what could be done would go a very small way to putting it in order. Miles gave information as to several schemes which Corp. might probably undertake

25 of
at 72
raised

if assisted by the subscriptions. Road to
Stoney Steps - Congress Street. Glendrest
(Macg. St) &c &c. It was resolved
that 4/6 p day was more than it was
advisable to give, and that 3/4 be fixed.

Meeting of Tas. Public Library Trustees to
day. Dr Aghew in the chair. I begin to see
some fruits from the new appointments which
I took some pains to bring about, by which
two trustees who never attended were replaced
by A J Clark & C M Teuison. Teuison & I
had discussed the disgraceful condition of
the library & he had proposed a plan which
would give much more room & allow for
classification of the books. Today Teuison
proposed this, & received authority to
consult with the City Surveyor with a
view to making such alterations as would
convert the present news room into the
Library Room with bays for the books, &
throw the other rooms into one large
room serving for magazines & newspapers.
This is the first step towards cleansing
this Augean Stable, and was carried
in spite of the Librarian's protest agst
losing his private office, the Trustees
considering that the convenience of
the public was the first thing to be
considered. All the three representatives
of the Municipal Council, Ald. Hiddleston,
Crisp & Bradley were present. The only
trustees absent were Clark & C M Teuison
(the latter ill)

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Sunday. 10th June

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The sensation of the week has been the announcement in the House of Commons by the Premier of Montgomery's report that the Mount Huxley mine had been "Gulled". Ward told me that certain specimens of stone sent for analysis when washed, showed in the adhering dirt a considerable amount of gold, while the stone on being crushed showed none. The other samples taken in larger bulk by Montgomery seem to have been tampered with almost under his eyes. This led to a collapse of the shares although some had sold shares at the high prices taken up at £25, for £50 or even £70 - (de la Walle, Back, Woolf, R Lucas & J Samuel & the other promoters - who however seem not have been accomplished - ingenuously seek to divert public indignation on Montgomery for not taking greater precautions with the specimens.

Have been spending much time over the All Saints district Relief Fund. I have in consenting to act my chief reason was to act as a check on sentimental imprudences. For, if great care is not taken, these charitable works will only intensify the evil, & keep the men from seeking other work especially from going into the country. The outcry is "we want work not charity". which really means that they want what we all want, a revival of trade. They don't see that the relief works are charity provided

either by private subscription or voted from the revenue
and that the work is nothing more than a
"labour test". Still this is of course much
better than doles of money or food, and
less pauperising.

* Rev Geo. Clark's
assistant

At Summerhome last night the Rev.
Thompson, for whom I have taken quite
a fancy, told rather a pretty story of
Rev. Turnbull, who is playing the part of
agitator among the unemployed - advising
them to demand work & not to work for
'a starvation wage'. Thompson went to
the old Exhibition building to hear
Turnbull. The preacher (or orator) held
forth on the generations during which
the working class had been oppressed
"They had suffered and endured - and
they had learnt patience & strength through
suffering. Through suffering they had
grown strong. And the time was coming
when they would conquer, when they
would conquer their rights from society.
They had but to labour and to wait.
Les: said the preacher, rather to wait
than to labour."

Letter to Hughes. 8 July 1894.

I suppose you see the Mercury regularly, so I need not enter into local politics. Braddon & Lyell & Co are in again - much to my disgust, after their gross waste & mismanagement during their previous 5 years of office. But H Dobson was the ruin of the late Ministry - & there was a good deal of dissension in their Councils. For this year we are to have double land tax (i.e. on capital value) an Income tax, & increased customs. Next year we are promised a land tax based on unimproved value. My fear is that the new taxes won't bring the revenue up to the expenditure. They have been using the retrenchment ~~age~~ freely - in many cases more freely than wisely. Braddon is a great reformer & economist on paper, but has not the faculty of foreseeing when retrenchment may lead to greater expenditure in the near future. As long as he can chop something down, especially if it is a civil servant whom he personally dislikes, he is quite happy. He is one of the most mischievous men of the politician class that we have had. Lyell has very much more capacity, but office is now a necessity to him, & he will do anything to keep it. He has given all his clerks notice that he intends to give up his business at the end of the year - which is a bad thing for my brother Ridley. For the future he intends to live by - or on - the public.

Business is in a deplorable state & numbers are out of employment. Bad as we are here, however, it seems from what we hear of Victoria & some of the other colonies & what we see of strikes, riots, & business calamities in America,

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England & other countries, that Tasmania is not by any means the country worst off in the world. We have been getting up public works in towns paid for by public subscription, to put on the unemployed at low relief wages. If ^{any} great care will have to be taken on these efforts will only make matters worse, and hinder things finding their natural level. It is easy to prevent in this way the people going out onto the land for employment, & indeed too easy to draw them from the country into the towns. The fact is there ^{are} a great deal too many people in the towns already, & the working man won't go into the country, - at least not until he is starved into it, if even then.

Mercury -
24 July 1894

Communicated
by J.B.W.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

The Executive Committee of the All Saints' Relief Association has for some six weeks past been finding work for the unemployed resident in the district comprised in All Saints' Parish. This district includes not only the southern quarter of the city, but extends beyond the city boundaries towards Mount Wellington, and for a considerable distance along both sides of the Huon-road. The works which have been put in hand are:—A road from top of Davey-street across Stony Steps Gully to the Waterworks-road (Messrs. J. L. Livingstone and J. C. Hall giving the land required); the widening of a portion of the Huon-road; and the improvement of Congress-street, and of Wentworth-street. The committee has received in private subscriptions the sum of £165, but contributions from the Road Trust, and adjoining owners interested in some of the roads undertaken, with the Government grant-in-aid of public works locally subscribed for, have placed a considerably larger sum at disposal for expenditure in relief wages. These wages were fixed in the first instance, and have since been continued, at the rate of 3s. 4d. per day. In addition to the men on the above roads, the committee has found employment with private persons for a number of men out of work. By arrangement with the Domain Committee it has also paid the wages of some men engaged on the Domain improvements. The committee is employing between 20 and 30 men weekly, and since its appointment has found work for over 50 men, representing with their families a total of over 200 necessitous persons.

A complete list is kept of the unemployed within the district. The committee meets every Friday night, when the whole list is carefully gone through, applicants are interviewed, every case inquired into, and the available work allotted to the most deserving and most needy. The committee has made it a general rule only to employ men who have families dependent on them. Occasionally a few days work has been given to single men where pressing need required it. But it has been felt that single men ought to seek for work in the country, where the farmers are complaining of the difficulty of getting labourers. There is a danger of the various relief works now in progress aggravating the tendency which always exists for men to drift into the towns.

The committee has also adopted the principle of not giving continuous work to any one man for more than a strictly limited time. By this plan the men are enabled and incited to seek for work at better wages with private persons, and are discouraged from the inclination which they often naturally feel to lean wholly on the relief works provided by the subscriptions of the charitably disposed.

Sept. 1894

Tuesday

The early spring has again brought sorrows. Last year we were mourning for the dear Mother - this year at nearly the same time it is our poor brother Robert who has been taken from us. ~~At the time~~ For years he has been in bad health, a constant cough developing into more & more lung trouble. Last year the influenza, in the severe form which it has now for some years assumed all over the world with such fatal results, got such a hold on him that he had to keep the house for three months & he was in such a critical condition that we feared for his life - This year he was again attacked by influenza & had mostly to keep the house for some weeks. On Saturday 1st Sept. Dr Benjafield told us that he was in a very dangerous condition & that it was doubtful what the result would be. He seemed, however, to hold his ground for some days & even to improve a little, though unable to lie down owing to the difficulty of breathing, & obliged to spend his nights in a chair. On Thursday night or rather early on Friday morning Nizzie & one of the girls alarmed us by coming in & saying he was very much worse & seemed to be sinking. Douglas took the two horses (Robert's) & rode for the Doctor, calling on the way for Dr. Gibson. Gibson arrived quickly & found that the heart had failed, & tried by stimulants & hot applications to obtain a reaction.

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Dr. Benjafield arrived soon after, but the two doctors could do little as Robert was unable to swallow & his breathing grew more & more laboured as he sat in the chair apparently unconscious, & breathing almost from the throat. This continued for probably a couple of hours & he seemed to be rapidly sinking. A little before 4 he seemed to revive & gain consciousness, his breathing improved & he coughed a little & drank some champagne. But it was only the last flicker of life, & in less than half an hour he breathed his last - about 20 min past 4. Dr. Benjafield stayed to the last. Lizzie & his daughters Elsie, Bertie & Minnie, were with him at the close. Poor fellow he has had a suffering & anxious life ever since his wife's death. That was a terrible blow to him for he was devotedly attached to her. It is a sad thing for the 6 girls & small boy who are left to fight their own way. Elsie is a fine girl, with common sense & character who can stand much in a mother's place. She is about 23, & has kept her father in the business for years.

On Sunday morning he was buried at the Friends Burial ground. Only a few friends beside the family & the business employees. Rev. Geo. Clarke came & spoke well on Christ's sympathy with human sorrow as shown to the sisters at Bethany. Frank also spoke a few words.

Elsie, Frank, Mattie & I are the

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Executors - He saw D Barclay, Commercial Bank on Monday, & found overdraft £3200, the Bank holding his Life Policy in the Australian Widows Fund, amounting with bonuses to £2300. This will relieve the business greatly & enable it to be carried on. Elsie cannot manage by herself, - which is too much disliked & not enough trusted to manage - & as Ridley has to leave Fysh's & will be without any employment, we have arranged that he should act as General Manager, which remaining buyer, & Elsie carrying on the business in her own name. Ridley's wife ^{admits} is very much opposed to this, thinking the children will be damaged socially, & have as she says, "a social millstone round their necks". But on every account the arrangement is necessary, not only for Robert's family, - who without such oversight of some one in whom business people have confidence, would probably find the business slip away or get into difficulties, - but also for Ridley's own family who otherwise would be without any means of support.

Douglas Lilley who has now been with us five, ~~or nearly six~~, years or thereabout - (he came in 1889) & to whom we have all grown much attached, left by express yesterday morning (Monday 16 Sept) en route for Melbourne where he is going to join the 'Hartnager' training ship. This

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Ship is for training boys for the Mercantile Marine on a plan of Lord Brassey's. She takes 24 boys, & has an instructor, a parson & a doctor. Douglas has long had a passion for the sea, & some time since an effort was made, which failed, to get him into the navy. I am very sorry to lose him, & I think the girls feel it even more. He has been a dull boy at school & does not take to books, but he is a fine, straight forward, gentlemanly ^{fellow} - in fact a manly gentleman. During the time he has been with us we have had no cause to complain of his conduct. In fact his sweet temper, straight forwardness, good principle, & readiness to oblige have been very noteworthy. He leaves a big blank, but I think he has chosen the profession which will suit him, & I believe he will do well.

After many years of mismanagement under the neglect of A. N. Taylor there is a prospect of the Tasmanian Public Library being properly organised. Of the Trustees the 3 Municipal members gave little attention. C. I. Barclay & Dr. Smart never came to the meetings, Dr. Agnew was out of the colony most of the time, & Mr. C. M. Maxwell and I the only ones who took much steady interest in it. I frequently urged reforms, especially a new catalogue, the rearrangement of the books in the large

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room, which was wasted as a news room, & the constant presence of the Librarian in the library room itself. Taylor opposed all these schemes, except the catalogue, of which he did a part; Mr Maxwell was old & would not take any active measures, & I was not inclined to fight a battle single handed.

When C S Barclay returned from England he resigned. I interviewed several of the Aldermen and got A J Clark appointed by the Municipal Council. Then Frank Young told me that C M Lewis (Union Bank) would act & that Barclay had resigned to let him in. I saw the (late) Ministry (Dobson, Lewis & A J Clark) & got a promise that ^{Young} he should be appointed to the next vacancy. I then asked D. Smart to resign which he did very willingly & Lewis was appointed by the Dobson Ministry only just before their resignation. This was fortunate as Taylor was trying to get Bird appointed, & would probably have succeeded if the present Ministry had been in. Next C M Maxwell resigned through failing health, & the Government at suggestion of A J Clark appointed Fred Young.

Lewis, the Youngs & I met and arranged a plan to shelve the large room & make that the library - we found that with bays it would hold all the books & that there would be plenty of room to classify the books; make the present

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library room the news room; abolish the librarian's office (which has been the curse of the library) & throw that and the adjoining room into a Periodical Room.

Leison proposed this at the next meeting & it was agreed to by all including the Municipal Trustees, ~~The City Surveyor~~ Taylor protesting against being deprived of his office. The City Surveyor, R. S. Miller, was appointed to draw plans & the scheme was fairly started.

Meantime, Leison began to make remorseless critical enquiries into the management which revealed a scandalous state of ignorance & neglect on the part of the Librarian. I had looked forward to Leison as the man who would cleanse the Augean stable, for he is not restrained by any scruples as to hurting people's feelings, and he has a very thorough knowledge of books from the library point of view. He certainly proved himself the man to make Taylor "sit up" (as the slang goes) not scrupling to remark on one occasion when Taylor showed more than usual ignorance & neglect, that he had only mentioned this particular matter to show the incompetence of the Librarian. In fact he was so remorseless that Taylor appealed to Dr. Agnew the Chairman, & said that he had been 21 years in the library & had never before been so spoken to. I had to suggest to Leison to be more

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moderate, otherwise he would raise a feeling
that Taylor was being persecuted, which would
be fatal to our plans of reform. This hint
he took. Fred York set himself to
work to perfect the plans & gave an immense
amount of time & trouble to the matter,
so that we forgot our plans very fairly
complete. At the last meeting, Taylor
who had been making interest with some
of the Aldermen, made a struggle for his
office - begging the Trustees as a favour
to board in an office with glass in
the sides, alleging that the dust & draughts
would kill him if he sat with the public,
& that in all libraries the "Chief Librarian"
had an office, so that people might see
him & talk with him without disturbing
readers. He said he had had a comfortable
office for 21 years & thought it very hard
that his comfort & health should now be
disregarded. It was pointed out to him
that his comfort would be cared for,
but also that of the public, & that
things would be so arranged that the
room would be fit for both. & that
the Trustees' duty & the object of the
library was to arrange matters for the
best advantage of the public. I said
I should oppose any closed in office.
that I had always maintained that
the Librarian should sit in the library
& not in a private room where he
could not possibly oversee it, & that

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as to the abolition of his office it would in future save him from the reflections which were constantly cast upon him of making his office a mining exchange & otherwise using it for purposes quite unconnected with the Library.

Lewis on remarked that Mr Taylor did not look at the matter in the proper light; that of course every care would be taken for his reasonable comfort, but that the Library "for 21 years" had been a scandal & disgrace to the town, & that the Trustees were really making the reform in his interest so that the Library might become an institution of which he might be proud!

Finally Taylor withdrew his opposition, but I think ~~only~~ on the principle "reculer pour mieux sauter". My idea is that he will try to influence the Aldermen, either by persuading them against alteration to the building, or by raising the finance difficulty; the £1500 invested, on which we were relying to supply the £200 or £300 necessary, having been set aside by agreement with the Corporation as a perpetual endowment towards its support.

Lewis on however says we can get the money from the Commercial Bank on our own responsibility, & reduce the liability year by year out of our yearly income, although this is to be diminished by the threatened cutting off of the Party vote.

Trip to New South Wales
and Victoria. Oct & Nov 1894.

I left Hobart, with Arthur D. Hatchorn as a companion, in the S.S. 'Donali', just before 10 PM on the night of Friday, 12 Oct. We had a large & comfortable deck cabin at fore and aft of alleyway. It was a bright calm moonlight night and as we rounded the Raoul and Tasmanian Islands very close, their bold black picturesque masses had a very fine effect. At sunrise I woke & went on deck just in time to see the Schouten's granite ^{rocks} glowing fiery red in the early morning sun. The weather was delightfully fine and we had a lovely smooth trip to Sydney, all the more enjoyable as there were few passengers on board. Amongst them was Mr Styles of Leopold Bay, the shipper of most of the cattle that come to Hobart, ~~with~~ and I had some interesting talks with him. Sunday was hazy & we saw little of the NSW Coast until we reached Cape St George & Jervis Bay. The steamer came alongside the Wharf in Darling Harbour at midnight on Sunday.

Monday morning we went to Hotel Metropole. We found it fairly good & very conveniently situated, but the table not first rate. What surprised us was the profusion of solid meat dishes at all meals & the dearth of vegetables. Altho' not satisfied with our quarters we found

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it convenient to stay there all the time we were in Sydney. (Mr Barward & Miss Cooté who came up in 'Oreals' were also there.

I was struck by the extensive improvements in Sydney since I was there with Mary in March 1889, & more charmed with its beauty than ever. This applies to the neighbourhood of the Harbour which is a constant delight. The suburbs are flat & not at all picturesque. But the part of the City near the Public Buildings & as far as the Town Hall is beautiful. The narrow streets give a sense of height & impressiveness to the brown stone buildings, which is wanting to the finer Melbourne buildings set in streets twice as wide, while the irregular angles & curves of the thoroughfares give a constant succession of picturesque views.

Wed. 17 Oct

After two days in Sydney we took a trip up the Hawkesbury, leaving by the 7 AM train for the Hawkesbury Rail Bridge, & thence by stern paddle steamer 'Genl Gordon' Capt^d Murray to the old town of Windsor, 72 miles higher up the River. The day was beautifully fine, a perfect day, except that it was rather too hot. The scenery, rough sandstone hills, covered with rugged dark fern bush, was picturesque & striking though rather monotonous. As we got higher up there were patches of cultivation, orchards

4
+ orange-ries, with pretty little houses,
an old mill with undershot wheel, and
various small farms as pleasing breaks
in the wild bush scenery. Saw two
snakes swimming across the river, one
abt 3 ft 6, the other 5 ft long. They swam
stretched at full length, the motion of
the body's curves being lateral & not
up & down as often represented.

Hindsoe was reached about Sundown
& we drove from the jetty across a rich
alluvial undulating plain, through
crops of maize, lucerne &c to the
township, where we had tea & then by
train back to Sydney direct, arriving
at the Metropole about 9:30 P.M.

18 Oct.

After a day in Sydney during
which I visited the Library & had an
interesting talk with W. Andersore the
Librarian about Library Management,
we left by the 5:15 Southern Express
for Moss Vale arriving at 8:15 P.M.

Surprised to find this little town lighted
with electric light (incandescent). Stayed
at Goodridge's Royal Hotel. At 9 next
morning it was raining, but Hadden's
waggonette came for us & we drove 11 miles
to the Fitzroy Falls. The road runs along
a plateau nearly 2000 ft above the sea,
till it crosses a stream & you see to the
right a few yards below a small foot
bridge. Taking your stand on this
you look over a sheer precipice down

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Style.

"Your journalistic style, wherein words of six syllables form the relief to words of eight, and hardly one dares to stand by itself. They are like huge boulders across a brook. The meaning, say you see, would run of itself, but you give us these impedimenting big stones to help us over it, while we profess to understand you by implication. For my part, I own, that to me, your parliamentary, illegitimate academic, modern crocodile phraseology, which is formidable in the jaws, impenetrable on the back, can't circumvent a corner, and is enabled to enter a common understanding solely by having a special highway prepared for it, - in short, the writing in your journals is too much for me."

Agostino in "Fittoria" -

by Geo. Meredith in "Fortnightly Review"
Chap V. of the Tale { the 11th. to 13th. pp 91

The violinist, Solomons, who gave lessons to the King of England, George III, said once to his illustrious pupil; "Violinists are divided into three classes. The first class comprises those who play very badly; the second, those who cannot play at all; to the third belong those who play well. Your most gracious Majesty has already advanced to the second class." Quoted ~~from~~ in Fortnightly Rev. Sept 1869.

(from Heine's 'Sketch of Modern German Literature' Vol. I. where he applies the story to Alschlegel as a poet.)

'But as regards Latin, you have no idea how involved it is. The Romans would never have found time to conquer the world if they had been first obliged to learn Latin. This happy people knew in their very cradles what nouns have an accusative in imv. I, on the contrary, must learn them by rote in the sweat of my brow. Still, it is a grand thing that I know them. Fis, buris, sitis, tussis, cucumis, amussis, cannabis, sinapis, these words which have made such a noise in the world, have done so by pretending to belong to a certain class, and yet retaining exceptions. For this reason I esteem them highly, & that I have ~~then~~ always have them at command, should any unforeseen need come upon me to use ~~them~~, gives me in many a gloomy hour of life much inward comfort & delight.

H. Heine quoted Fortnightly Rev. Sept 17. 69.

Capital
pun!

In debate H. of Commons August 1869,
a member quoted the Frenchman who
did not object to the sanctity of human
life being respected - "Mais que Messieurs
les assassins commencent" -

The French Judge - "one must live"

Money

Sir Jonah Barrington remarks in his Memoirs
à propos of Swift's Maxim, "Money's the
Devil, and God keeps it from us," that
"if this be orthodox, there will be more glutten
souls saved in Ireland than in any other
part of His Britannic Majesty's dominions."

Wooden Walls.

An Irish Baronet at a large dinner
party, was called on to propose a toast just after
some magnate had given the "The wooden walls
of England". Determined that his country
should not be outdone, the baronet proposed
"The wooden walls of Ireland". This toast being
quite new to us all, says Sir Jonah, "he
was asked for an explanation, upon which,
filling a bumper, he very gravely stood up,
bowing to the Marquis of Waterford & several
country gentlemen who commanded country regiments
he said, 'My Lords & Gentlemen, I have the

pleasure of giving you the wooden walls of
Ireland, the Colonels of militia!"

The feeling of the Bar was so strong against Lord
Chancellor Clare (Ireland) that on his death it
was thought necessary to "sound" the profession
about attending his funeral. One of his chief
opponents was asked if he objected to join
the procession. "Not at all," he replied, "I
shall certainly attend his funeral with the
greatest pleasure imaginable."

Chief Justice Carleton, who was a very
lugubrious personage, came into Court one
day more gloomy than ever, & apologized for
adjourning the Court at once. "The fact is,"
he said, "I have met with a domestic
misfortune. Poor Lady Carleton has
most unfortunately miscarried, and—"
"Oh! then, my Lord," interrupted Curran,
"there is no necessity for your lordship to
make any apology, as it appears that your
lordship has no issue to try."

Sir Jonah Barrington's Memoirs were first pub.
in 1827, 2^d ed. in 1830, a 3^d ed. in 1869.
Here are the originals of many favourite stories.

Sir Boyle Roche on posterity, having done
nothing for us, and on sacrificing the whole
of the Constitution to preserve the remainder.

Sir Hercules Langrishe, drinking three bottles of
claret by himself, & being asked if he had done
so without assistance, replying that he had had
the assistance of a bottle of port.

Spectator Sept 18. 69.

Henry Crabb Robinson. "Old Crabb" as he was familiarly called - had a chin of excessive length, with portentous power of extension. It was said, & justly said, that Lord Brougham used to punctuate his sentences with his nose; just at the end of a long parenthesis he could, and did, turn up his nose, which served to note the change of subject, as well, or better than a printed mark. Mr Robinson was not so wilful as this, but he had a very able use of the chin at a conversational crisis, & just at the point of a story ~~he~~ pushed it out, & then very slowly drew it in again, so that you always knew when to laugh, & the oddity of the gesture helped you in laughing.

Review of HCR's Diary. by Walter Bagehot
Fortnightly. Aug 79

An admirer of Disraeli talking to Bright said "At least you must give him credit for being a self-made man" - "Yes," said Bright, "that's true, and he adores his maker."

Mercury Aug 79

Poor the bushrauger tells many boastful stories since he has put into safe custody in the jail. His vanity is overweening if we can believe him his piety is at least equal. He says that on one occasion he had stuck up a traveller, & that although he covered

him with his pistol & threatened to shoot him instantly he refused to give up his money. On this, says Power, "I told him I would give him five minutes, ^{& then I would shoot him if still obstinate} and I went behind a log & prayed earnestly to the Lord to soften his heart. When I came And the Lord did soften his heart for when I came back he handed over the money without any more fuss.
Mercury at June 1870.

The author of Devereux's Cruise in the Porpoise (a Naval Officer) to show the awful state of immorality at the Seychelles Is., where Vice is looked upon as quite venial - ^{grossly} states that there is an official at Mauritius (born at Seychelles) who is the son of his grandmother by his own brother. *Spectator 4 Sept 1869.*

Lamb's ready answer to the Highgate omnibus conductor, who put his head in to ask "All full inside?" when Lamb was half asleep in the corner - "I really can't answer for the other Ladies & Gentlemen, but that last piece of pudding at Mr. Gilman's did the business for me."
Spectator 25 June 70, p 177.

A Young barrister opening a case before Lord Ellenborough, began "My Lord, my unfortunate client, - my unfortunate client, - my un -" "Lord Ellenborough

leaned forward and said, with his
blandest smile of encouragement,
"Go on, M. —, so far the Court is
entirely with you."

Spectator 25 June 70

Group 119.

which the stream flings itself in a sheer
fall. You are in fact standing at the
head of a huge ravine, like the gorges
in the Blue Mountains though narrower.
It is said there is an extensive view from
this point, but on our visit the whole
gorge was filled with dense swirling
masses of white mist which only lifted
at times sufficiently to give us glimpses
of the valley far below & of the numerous
pretty little waterfalls at different
points at the head of the chasm.
We walked to various points round the
head of the gorge & although we got no
clear view the sight was very ^{impressive} ~~impressive~~
& fine. After about an hour's stay we ^{returned} ~~got~~
into the trap & after 4 or 5 miles of uninteresting
quambush began to descend the Ramangany
ranges by the most extraordinary twist by
road I ever travelled. The Huon Road is
straight in comparison. The road twisted
& doubled on itself through most lovely
bush, pittosporum, sassafras, cedar,
nettle tree, & tropical looking palms,
past huge crags of sandstone rock, until

we reached Kangaroo Valley about 19 miles from Moss Vale. A long valley of brilliant green nestled between the Barrangarry and Cambawarra Ranges. Occupied by rich dairy farms, grass luxuriant and sprinkled with sleek cattle. Had lunch at the Inn in the quaint little township & then drove along the valley some miles, & began the ascent of the Cambawarra Range by a similar road & thro' similar bush as before. From the head of the pass there is a beautiful view back along this luxuriant valley. A little further on just on the descent on the otherside there is a fine & extensive prospect over Jarvis Bay &c but the fog & drizzle hid this from us almost entirely. The descent is as winding & reveals a fine dairying plain below, the Cambawarra Country. At the foot turning to left we reached Nowra on the Shoalhaven River, crossing a fine iron bridge.

Next morning by train from Nowra through splendid dairying country, the Berry estate formerly (abt 90,000 acres) mostly in pasture, white with clover, & cattle rolling fat. Land worth £20 & upwards per acre. Prosperous looking townships. A land bubbling over with wealth & yet prices so low that everyone is hard up. At Hollongong & Nianua scenery changes, country basaltic with rocky

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putting out into the sea. Through Hawarra district to Bulli Centre of the Southern Coal field. Drove up the Bulli Pass through beautiful bush, but not so fine as at Kangaroo Valley. There is a fine view from the Look out but a hazy day hindered the distant view. At Bulli the hills are steep & approach the coast leaving only a narrow strip, their slopes are rich in coal, & the country between them & the sea is fertile looking & thickly sprinkled with homesteads & scattered villages. We drove on to the falls of the Loddon River, a double fall, the river at the second fall leaping into a large amphitheatre of rock containing a large pool, and then running away underground beneath the rocks & stones overgrown with trees & scrub.

Left Bulli early in afternoon by train. The line is striking, running along the coast; into a tunnel thro a projecting point, then out onto a view of beach & open sea, then through another tunnel and out into a gallery of splendid bush, gum festooned with creepers & thick scrub, the most distinctive feature being palms, giant lilies 12 or 14 ft high & other tropical looking plants. The rail runs along the borders of the National Park on Port Hacking, past Botany Bay & so to Sydney, where we arrived on Saturday evening about dark.

He made but one other trip into the Country, to the Blue Mountains. Left Sydney by 5.35 PM train on Monday, 22 Oct for Mt Victoria where we stayed at Peacock's Imperial Hotel - a very good & comfortable Hotel. The next morning we left in a wagonette. Drove first to Blackheath & visited Govett's Leap. It was a bright hot day with full sunshine & the great gorge looked less impressive than when I saw it some 14 years ago. It needs mist or cloud to bring out the grandeur of the valley. Then to Katoomba & down the gully ~~thru~~ by steps & path thro' bush & fern to the Teura fall, very beautiful. Last to the Wentworth Falls much the most beautiful of all - which I saw for the first time. Tolly's 'Hotel Wentworth' gave us the best lunch I have had in N.S.W. The landlord pointed out to us a man who he said came from the 'Robbery Under Arms' Country. He was a fine little athletic looking young man, a fine specimen of the Australian Corn Stalk, & rode a magnificent horse. On way back admired the fine view over Emu Plains. Got back to Sydney 4.40 PM. He had altogether rather more than a fortnight in N.S.W. - arrived 14 Oct & left 30 Oct.

He had a ~~most~~ enjoyable time in Sydney & saw a number of friends who were very kind. Butterworth, Piquenit, Robson, Dr Lloyd, Mrs Edginton (Emma Walch) J.C. Hayward and others. I spent a considerable time at the library. Mr Anderson the New Librarian

referred by
a part of
American
translations

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The observation
on last day

giving me much useful information as to Library
organisations &c. I spent many hours making
notes & extracts from old Dutch travels & other
books. He paid several visits to the Picture
Gallery - a very good collection, much superior
to that at Melbourne - also went over the
Museum - the best in Australia. Prof.
Shelfall & Liversidge showed us over the
University, with which I was very much
pleased, especially with the Laboratories
& the fine Medical School building.

Amongst other trips on the harbour,
we went to Paramatta (to some Military
Sports) to Manley & to South Head,
walking back most of the way from the
latter place. He had splendid weather
all the time, sometimes too hot, but only
one wet day & that not thoroughly wet -
the day of our visit to Fitzroy Falls.

He left Sydney by S.S. 'Arawatta'
for Melbourne - very crowded having the
Opera Co, also some very rowdy Sydney
carrikins who were a great nuisance, as
as we were put in one side of the Steerage.
The trip round, except for that, was very
pleasant, smooth sea & beautiful weather.

The most interesting part was rounding Wilson
Promontory in the morning, when we saw
between the main & the neighbouring islands.

At Melbourne Arthur Watson had
to go back the next day. I took up our
quarters at the Federal Coffee Palace, dark,
dirty, uncomfortable & badly managed.

134 drowned.

When we arrived news of awful shipwreck of 'Wairarapa'
and scalding of passengers in railway accident at Redfern

When Arthur left I went on MacFarland's invitation to stay with him at his new house at Ormond, which was very pleasant. The Dining Hall there is a fine piece of work, panelled with Tasmanian blackwood, exceedingly handsome. In Melbourne I had to look up numbers of old friends & had a very good time. Had two pleasant visits to Senhor Loureiro's - also to Wm Benson's & other places. Spent long time in library - getting information as to organisation &c & making notes of early voyages & so forth.

For the first time in my life I went to the Melbourne Cup. It was a lovely day, though rather cloudy. I went with Arthur & Dalton Pontifex. About 60,000 people there. It is a fine sight & the arrangements simply perfect in every respect - no crowding or confusion notw'dg the crowds of people.

Left much impressed by the eagerness of the Melbourne people over the Races, & the evidently serious business it was to many. On the course could hardly believe times were so bad, to realise the condition of things it was necessary to walk thro Collins Street & see the multitude of offices with placards 'To let'. Things are bad indeed.

Left Melbourne by SS Rotomahana for Hobart direct. Had a lovely passage - seas smooth as glass. Fine view of Pillar &c.

Arrived at Hobart Wharf at lunch time on Saturday 17th Nov. Nearly over 5 weeks away.
5 weeks & 1 day.

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Nov.

Found that the reorganisation of the library had been begun. Fred Young the moving spirit. The books were in a disgracefully filthy state, the result of many years neglect by Librarian whose hardest work has been drawing his salary. It took 4 men a week to clap & dust the main portion of the library proper. He threw out about 1200 vols of rubbish & duplicates. Taylor is incorrigible. Here is a characteristic anecdote. He said to me with a sigh. "Ah! I wish this had been done 6 or 7 years since. I should now have been a rich man travelling in Europe". Indeed, said I, "how is that?" Why he said, "7 years ago I could have sold out my shares (Silver Queen) for £7000, but I had taken a resolution that I would never leave the library until it had been put into proper order - So I consider I have lost £7000 by the library". "Well", said I, "that's hard". The fact being that some time later, when his shares were nominally worth £13,000 he refused to sell, & said he would wait until they were worth £20,000! Yet he is such a consummate self-deceiver that he really believes what he says. With regard to the duplicates bought - of which there are scores, especially of late years, he blames either the Trustees, himself especially - or else young McLean his assistant for not ~~not~~ telling him. He is absolutely callous as to his own gross ignorance & neglect. He has been 21 years Librarian

875
my.

I is now absolutely ignorant as to the books -
as ignorant as a child.

The Youngs have held me down nearly every evening for well nigh a month, arranging the books on the shelves. The arrangement of the Biography alone, which Fred Young & I did, has been enough to turn one's hair grey. But my work has been nothing to theirs. They have lived at the library for a month or two weeks. Fred giving 8 to 10 hours a day & Frank nearly as much. The result has been a most admirable arrangement. The difficulty of arrangement has been greatly increased by this: that the logical order was interfered with by the necessity of keeping the good books & those likely to be wanted, on the lower shelves, which involved skying at least two shelves of comparatively worthless books. To reconcile a logical order with this necessity was indeed a task. My only fear is that we shall find it a great difficulty to insert new books in their proper places, as practically no spaces have been left for additions. Yet with all drawbacks the arrangement, due chiefly to F M Young, is admirable.

The Library Room, the books having been labelled with proper shelf numbers, was opened to the public on Wednesday, 16th January, & has been thronged ever since.

1895
Jan. 22.

People seem a little more hopeful about the condition of things, & there is a feeling that probably we have reached the bottom of the depression. The Customs returns are looking up a little. The Timber revival is doing a good deal at the Huon & in Bentrecaux Channel, and the output of minerals is steadily increasing - reaching about £500,000 last year. The fact is that the days of share speculation are over, & the mines are being now steadily developed. But all over the world the trouble spreads. With wheat at 20s. per quarter & no prospect of a rise, things must be bad. It seems as if in this present 'pooling of the world', with the whole world one huge market, the races that can live cheapest must succeed in the race of competition, which means a serious reduction in the standard of living for farmers & labourers in more civilised countries. They will live on the land & grow corn as before, but they will do no more & will have to give up not only luxuries, but many things hitherto considered to be necessities.

A few weeks since an ominous note came from Newfoundland. Through the failure of the chief bank, the government was unable to meet its liabilities & the distress was so great, that formidable riots occurred, the crowds demanding food.

In this colony, the Income Tax which was ^{relied on} ~~expected~~ to put the finances straight, is a failure, the amount obtained over & above the already

existing Real & personal Estate Duties being trifling. Of course it goes without saying that there have been multitudes of dishonest returns. The Treasurer, Fysh, announces that he is making large retrenchments. I fear the University will go this year, if not altogether yet so far as teaching is concerned. It is specially unfortunate, because, I believe, if we could pull through this year, its success & permanence would be secured. 30 students is a very good beginning, in these times & with the uncertainty that exists as to its permanence. It has the bitter hostility of the North - which can't get over the North & South feeling - and the South is lukewarm about it. The Ministry - ie Fysh, Braddon, & Pillinger are hostile to it, they play to the gallery. Moore & Clark are staunch, but the others really sway the policy of the government. They will waste thousands to catch a vote, but to cut down any educational expenditure is popular, so they go for it, & care nothing for the future. The same thing is evident in the Municipal Council - Geo Davies, in order to catch a cheap popularity, proposes to abolish the Municipal contribution to the Public Library. It is contemptible.

1895

Feb 15. Sunday -

Our International Exhibition can hardly be said to be a success. Neither England nor America nor indeed any other country has contributed, and of the Colonies only Victoria is fairly represented - New S. Wales having drawn back & the others being nowhere. There is a fair display of English pictures & the Tasmanian Court is creditable.

The crowd of visitors expected has not come. Yet I think there have been many more than usual, though other causes besides the Exhibition have contributed. Hobart has been the centre of various intercolonial meetings. First in importance was the meeting of Premiers - Turner (Victoria) Reid (N.S. Wales) Kingston (S.A.) Forrest (W.A.) and (Queensland) with our only Braddon for Tasmania.

They agreed to a new plan for getting a Federation Convention. Each Colony to elect by popular vote 10 representatives to form a Convention to draw up a Federation Bill. I don't expect much from it, but still it is one more step in advance. It may well be a question whether 10 representatives are enough to give a chance of good & even necessary men to be included. The 10 elected in each colony wd probably be just the most prominent politicians of the hour, for I doubt if the people would elect really the best men.

Next we had the meeting of the Federal Council - only Victoria, Queensland, Western Aust. & Tasmania being represented.

this time with 5 members each, which makes a fairly respectable Assembly - the 2 members each was absurd, scarcely a good sized Committee. They did little, only having met for form's sake to comply with the requirement that the Council must meet at least once in two years, otherwise it would lapse. They got foolishly into opposition to the Premiers on Federation. The fact is that the politicians only use Federation for their own selfish ends - and there is hardly yet any strong national feeling on the subject, nor is any colony prepared to make a sacrifice to secure it. This I believe if the colonies were polled a majority would vote for it.

In addition to the above we have had ^{a Post Office Conference} ~~a~~ ^{Shipping Conference} ~~a~~ and a Temperance Convention - so that between these and four men of war, including the Orlando, flag ship of Admiral Cyprian Bridges, we have been rather lively.

The Summer has been exceptionally hot and dry. We had good soaking winter rains but it has hardly rained since November. We have had several spells of hot dry weather - more than the average. The past week, succeeding a similar spell not so hot a short time since, has been quite exceptional. The weather has been hot and dry, with neither decided hot wind nor usual sea breezes. The thermometer standing often above 90°. But the most

1895

Feb 15 extraordinary thing has been that the Country everywhere is on fire, & that the town since last Sunday, or even before, has been wrapped in a dense smoke haze hanging over it like a pall. Not only have the Mountain & surrounding hills been mostly invisible, but even in bright moonlight the opposite hill (Liverpool St & Forest Road) have been barely distinguishable, looking thro' the heavy haze, from our house in Davey Street. (Go Antill Street) This has lasted the whole week with nearly calm atmosphere, only on one day the slightest sea breeze, & at nights a little land wind. To night especially the Mountain is merely a dense mass of smoke & ~~seems to be~~ on fire nearly all over so of Mt Nelson & other parts. This seems to be the case on the West Coast & elsewhere in the island - also in other colonies where the smoke haze has been so thick at sea as to hinder the steamers. I never remember such a long spell of calm dry hot weather, accompanied by so gloomy a haze - though I can clearly remember Black Thursday in 1851, but then there was a violent scorching hot North wind. The sun & moon have had a most lurid appearance.

In Vict & SA. the heat has been terrible & the drought severe. In Sydney, N. S. Wales & Queensland they have had deluges of rain & floods. In Brisbane they have had days of pouring tropical rain with the thermometer

at 105°. Looking out now from our house
Sandy Bay and the town are not to be seen
tho' the stars are shining bright overhead.

I thought this fog was entirely smoke,
but Mr Young says it is largely a haze of
dry vapour, which condenses round the
smoke particles suspended in the air.

The Miss Masons of Carnarvon have
been staying here for the last week. They are
simple nice girls & have an enthusiasm
for art. Their visit has quite enlivened
Mary, who has done a capital pastel
of Heather Mason, and a very good
pastel of little Cassie Hughstone.

The great event of the last few months
has been the war between Japan & China.
The awakening of the Japanese to new ideas
& to the use of the last inventions of Western
Civilisation, including a Prussian organisation
of their army & a positively marvellous
capacity for warfare in the latest modern
mode is I think the most remarkable
development of modern times. As to China
it seems rotted through with official
corruption & ineptitude. The stories of utter
disorganisation are almost incredible - such
as heaps of ammunition of all sorts & sizes
from which the wretched soldiers had to
pick out what they could find to fit their
guns as it lay heaped up like potatoes.
The soldiers have so lost faith in their
officers that they can hardly be got to
fight, and the Japanese victorious on sea

1895

Feb 15 and land, seems resolved not to stop short of
Pekin. Already the terms of peace asked are
preposterous in their assumption. It looks
as if the Japs, puffed up with victory,
consciousness of strength & capacity, and
with national vanity, were likely to be in
the future a serious menace to the Western
Nations.

News has come of the death of Sir
Robert Hamilton, our late Governor. It
is a sad thing, and everyone is very much
grieved. He was a fine unpretending
genuine man of considerable ability,
and his death will I think be a loss to
this colony, as he was in a position to be
of service to Tasmania in England &
well disposed to do it. He can be
scarcely more than 58, & was a man
who bid fair to last another 20 years.

March 7. Weighed at a weighing machine -
11 stone. Must have lost at least
a stone within the last few months.

The report of Sir R Hamilton's
death was, I am glad to say, untrue.
The Mercury, Tas News & the Launceston
papers had all of them obituary
notices.

A day or so after the entry of Feb 15
the weather broke. Since then the weather
has been unsettled but delightful.

[Sir R Hamilton died some weeks later]

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I attended to night at the large Music hall in the International Exhibition building in the Domain to see the drawing of the 10th Bank Lottery. The hall was well filled (perhaps 700 or 800) and Bell induced me to go onto the platform where I was put right in front, - rather an incongruous position after my denunciations of the whole business.

The drawing was conducted by Adams (Tattersall's, Sydney) the organizer of the great race sweeps. The plan adopted seemed as fair as could be. A large wooden cylindrical drum was placed in the centre of the platform. In this were placed little wooden marbles with numbers on them corresponding to the tickets sold - some 50,000 in number. The drum was turned round by a handle a number of times, & then Adams with a long automatic holder, which he thrust into the drum through a small lid in the top, drew out one at a time, one of the marbles. The marble as taken out was handed to Fitzgerald, who called out its number, which was at once pasted up on a large board at the back of the orchestra. ^{The drum was occasionally revolved.} When as many numbers were drawn as there were prizes, two smaller drums were brought into requisition. They were placed on opposite sides of the platform, In the first were placed the marbles drawn from the drum. In the Second marbles numbered from 1 to 50 were placed, corresponding to the prizes. A. J. Douglas had charge of the first, Fitzgerald of the Second.

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The numbers were drawn by two small girls - Counsel & Leazer. The method was as follows: one of the marbles representing the prizes was drawn & the number called out & written down. The child at the other drum then drew one of the numbers representing the tickets, that was called & written down, the owner of that number thereby winning the prize previously called out. It was not until the 10th draw that the first prize (Miller's corner) was drawn, falling to n^o 38,650 who turned out to be a miner at Marble Bar Diggins, Roeburn, Western Australia, Mr J H Smith. Immediately this prize was drawn, the interest of the spectators was at end, & there was a general movement, leaving the hall nearly empty before the last prize was allotted.

Sept 75. There is hope for the University yet. Clark & Moore have opposed the rest of the Ministry in the proposal to cut it down. It was agreed that £2500 should be proposed. Clark went to Sydney and in his absence Braddon & Fyfe took the opportunity to cut down the amount for 1896 to £1500, which of course meant giving up teaching & dismissing the lecturers. Clark was very indignant. On 24th July the matter came before the assembly. Clark made a splendid speech for the University, but the Government proposal to reduce the vote to £1500 was

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Sept carried by 21 votes to 12. My pamphlet was made the basis of the argument in its favour.

The next thing to do was to interview the members of the Council, and Adye (Douglas) took up the case warmly. On 3rd Sept the Bill was considered in Committee.

Out of 7 northern members, 6 spoke strongly in favour of increasing the £1500 to £2500. Douglas & Rooke led the way, Piesse & Collins made excellent speeches in support. The increase was carried unanimously. This was unexpected good fortune to Stephens & myself who were present.

On Sept the amendments of the Council were considered by the Assembly who disagreed by 14 to 13. A Committee appointed to draw up reasons for dissent, brought up reasons which included comparisons with the Technical School & Primary Education. Objection was taken to these (wh were drawn by Braddon) & it was proposed that the sole reason to be given should be "the necessity of retrenchment". The amendment received 15 votes for & 15 against, & was carried by the casting vote of the Speaker. It remains to be seen whether the Council will keep a stiff back. They ought to do so, seeing that the rejection of their amendment was carried by a majority of one vote only, & that they are unanimous.

There seem to be some signs that we have

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Sept 15 touched bottom at last & that things will now begin slowly to improve. There is a revival of trade in England & America; New South Wales is looking up & even in Victoria things have taken a turn for the better. The last wool sales showed a rise in wool of 20%. Several country people have told me lately that things are looking more hopeful. John Baily (warehouseman in town) says that prices are hardening. The revenue is improving considerably. It is devoutly to be hoped ~~that~~ after the last 4 or 5 years of distress, in which so many have been ruined & so many more have been put to straits in money matters, ~~that~~ ^{that} the clouds are beginning to lift. In this colony our great want is to square the public finances. If people once knew what the taxation was to be, they would begin to feel a certain confidence, and begin to buy & sell & enter into various enterprises. It is to a large extent the uncertainty as to what Parliament will do that prevents business reviving.

ch 1. Things are still very flat here, and there seems to be little improvement, although the number of visitors has been large this year.

For some weeks we had the fleet in the Harbour. Admiral Cyprian Bridges, who certainly has his heart set on keeping his Squadron perfect as a fighting machine, took the ships for some weeks manœuvres to Norfolk Bay, which he considers an ideal place for such work. He then brought the Squadron of nine ships to the Derwent, so that, with the three Surveying ships "Penguin", "Dart" and "Waterwitch", we had twelve warships in the harbour at once. Quite unprecedented.

There is an improvement this season for the country people. Wool is up at least 1^s per lb. and nearly all other produce has improved in value. Webster says that the farmers will this year get 50% more for their produce than last year. Potatoes are high & the North West Coast is jubilant. Wheat is 5^s. compared with about 3^s last year. Oats ~~& instead of~~ nearly double, and the Cabmen are froaming over the rise in chaff, which has also doubled in price. The creameries have made a wonderful difference in butter. Some years since it was quite the exception to get good butter - indeed it was only to be got by the grocers special favour. Now bad butter is the exception. Though the farmers don't get much - say 9^s per lb. The creameries only give 2^s to 2½ per fall.
 for the milk.

133 1896.

March 1

The fact is that we are in a transition period in agriculture & dairying. The farmers will have to accept the cooperative system, and so in for big manufacturers. It is like the revolution in weaving - from the handloom weavers to the large mills. Great privation - even ruin to existing interests - but eventually a great gain to the world.

The dropping of prices is due amongst other things to the cheapening & speed of transit, which makes the whole world one market. The ruling prices being fixed by the country which can produce cheap. The cheapening of transport is largely due to improvement of machinery. In old times a steamer on a long voyage could take but little beyond her coal. The invention of triple expansion engines ^{has} so economised the consumption of coal, that now steamers can take large cargoes, while keeping sufficient room for the coal required.

There has been much criticism of Sir E. Braddon accepting the office of Director on the London Board of the Anchor Line mine. It was sold for £20,000 & floated in London for £100,000 or £120,000. Which is looked upon as a swindle. Braddon defends himself on the ground that the Premier is fulfilling his duty by encouraging the investment of English capital in mining enterprise in

the colony. He positively declares that he has received no allotment of shares. But most people think that he is not the man to give his name out of patriotic or philanthropic motives. His statement may be literally true, but there is something undivulged.

Adams, the Great Race Lottery man, has set up his head quarters here, having been driven out of Brisbane. Some of us have great strong opinions on the economically mischievous effects of these Great Sweeps, as developing the gambling spirit, with consequent effect in discouraging steady work. Adams is wise in his generation. He points out that there will be a gain to the revenue of something like £50,000 a year in portage. He has rented the Treasurer's (PO Fysh's Store - I should say Sir Philip's) at some £200 a year, and has so secured him. The prospect of printing has shut the mouths of the papers. The 'Mercury' refused to put in any letters protesting against Adams being allowed to run his Sweeps here, declaring that everything had been said on the subject that could be said!!

We have had stirring events in the last few months. The massacres in Armenia have roused a strong feeling of indignation in England, and a determination to bring the unspeakable Turk to his bearings even

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March 1
(cont)

if it should result in the deposition of the Sultan & the dismemberment of Turkey. At first the concord of the powers seemed perfect, but the Sultan was obstinate, and has contrived to play off the jealousies of the different Powers against each other so dexterously, that nothing has been done. England was isolated & could not act alone without bringing on a European War, from which Lord Salisbury rightly shrunk.

Then Pres. Cleveland struck in, apropos of the difference with Venezuela, in his message to Congress reaffirming the Monroe doctrine in terms which practically declared that America claimed a protectorate over all S. American states & asserted her right to be sole Arbitrator in disputes between them and European nations.

At first the American public feeling was so strong that war seemed quite a possibility. But probably the message was actuated largely by the claims of the Democratic party exigencies before the elections, and when Lord Salisbury was seen to take a firm position, and strong protests against Cleveland's position were raised in America, public feeling cooled down & there is every prospect now of a reasonable settlement of the question.

Even more startling has been the explosion

in the Transvaal. Here the Boers, who number less than a quarter of the whole population since the great rush of foreigners, especially English, to the rich goldfields of the Witwatersrand, have persistently refused to the Uitlanders any share in the government, ~~thus~~ while they taxed them exclusively for its support. This roused furious discontent in Johannesburg, now grown to some 100,000 inhabitants, ^{the majority being English.} Defence Associations were formed there, ~~bro~~ arms distributed, & large bodies of men drilled, to force the Boer oligarchy to grant political rights, or otherwise to upset the Boer rule & found a Republic on democratic principles. Dr Jameson, the Administrator of the Chartered Coys Mashona Land was summoned to assist, and he with a few hundred of his Armed police entered the country & marched on Johannesburg. He was met and trapped by the Boer forces, & constantly expecting to be strongly supported by overwhelming bodies of men from Johannesburg a few miles distant, stood his ground with stubborn determination, only surrendering when his ammunition was exhausted & his men incapable through want of food. His pluck & daring contrast strongly with the Defence Committee's ineptitude and incapacity, if not absolute cowardice. At any rate the movement for a revolution

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March

was effectually crushed & Jameson & the survivors of his force taken prisoners.

Joe Chamberlain, Secy for the Colonies took prompt action. He telegraphed peremptory orders to Jameson to retire & ordered forces to the border to prevent any further filibustering. Also telegraphed in similar terms to Kruger the crafty Boer President.

The most startling development however was the action of the German Emperor, the hot headed William II. He telegraphed to Pres. Kruger virtually declaring that he recognised the independence of the Transvaal: this, although it derived its autonomy from an agreement or ~~con~~ concession from England, which expressly reserved the whole of its foreign relations to the control of England as its practical suzerain. William even proposed to send German troops from Delagoa Bay to resist English aggression. This overbearing hostile action roused a stern spirit of indignation in England. The Kaiser was told that England would brook no interference, and was ready to back her resolve by arms. The immediate answer was a large increase to the navy. ^{Englishmen felt} ~~and a feeling~~ that Germany must from henceforth be looked upon as an enemy, and that England should at once look for allies or 'rapprochements' with other powers - such as France and Russia. It would seem that the Kaiser's hasty

Kruger afterwards remarked (it is said) "Why the old woman only sneezed, and - where were you?"

action, taken because England was apparently isolated, with Armenian & Venezuelan questions on her hands, - has probably rendered any close friendship with Germany impossible for at least a generation.

Already there are rumours of proposed arrangements with France respecting Egypt, ~~the subject~~ ^{the English occupation being the subject} on which that country is so sore, ~~and so anxious~~ ^{for years France's almost efforts have been exerted} to secure the evacuation of the Nile Valley by England. ^{and, writes this ed., she has taken every occasion to harp on it!} The South African problem will be a difficult one to settle, but probably the Boers being in such a small minority will have to grant concessions to the Uitlanders, and political privileges will gradually be acquired and the Republic modelled on modern Democratic lines. There is no desire to make the Transvaal an English ^{province} dependency or deprive it of any measure of its autonomy, so long as English predominance in South Africa is undisturbed.

The gold mines of South Africa are marvellously rich. Mr Bryce who has lately visited the country estimates their future value at £700,000,000. It is this enormous acquisition of wealth to England that has apparently roused the furious envy of the Germans, - or at least of the Emperor, for he has by no means the general support of his people. He is most anxious to form a greater Germany beyond the Seas, but this is hopeless. It is a curious & significant fact that German emigrants beyond the Sea

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March 1. prefer to be under English or American institutions, and constantly express the strongest repugnance to any proposal to again subject themselves to the iron rule of the German empire.

Sunday. 15th March.

Sir E. Baddar has been giving expression to some sentiments in his speeches at the North West Coast which recommend themselves by their common sense and appropriateness. Hobart wants much in the way of Sanitary reform. Though much has been done since the day in which open cesspools were not unknown in back yards, and the street gutters were fetid, stagnant & weed grown, there yet remains much to do. The house drains still run into the open street gutters in too many places; the creek is a bad open sewer, and its mouth silted up with a deposit which prevents the drainage getting clear away into the salt water; the ^{earth closet} ~~pan~~ system is principally distinguished by its absolute non-use of earth; the smaller creeks are in a very dirty state; the dairies are every now & then proving hotbeds of diphtheria & typhoid; the slaughter yards & bone house poison the lower part of the town; and we have yearly outbreaks of typhoid, which with proper sanitary precautions might be

largely diminished if not prevented.

All this is bad, and wants mending; and the Municipal Council shows themselves very sluggish and procrastinating in action.

But not a little of the outcry about unsanitary conditions is rather against smells, of which there are many - than against what is really dangerous to health. The Metropolitan Drainage Board has been sitting for months or years. Mr. Mault with Sydis support has formulated a scheme of underground drainage, by which all the sewage including that from water closets would be carried well out into the estuary of the Derwent and be speedily disinfected by the action of the sea water. But the scheme excites lively opposition not only on account of its expense, but from an ignorant idea that the sewage will be carried on to the shores & will defile the Derwent & its banks. People are silly enough to compare the Derwent estuary with the Thames & other rivers into which the drainage of the great cities of England has formerly been allowed to flow, and they seriously contend that the drainage of a town of 30,000 inhabitants will produce similar effects if carried into a great arm of the sea like the Derwent - forgetting amongst other things that at present nearly all the drainage does flow into the Derwent, & that all

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15 March. including a great many water closets, and that the river shows no signs of pollution & that its beaches, even close to the mouth of the sewer creek are quite inoffensive & practically pure. All that is intended to add is the drainage from the water closets which by this scheme would be substituted for the commonly found so called "earth closet" - really the "dirty pan" - system.

As an indication of what really is offensive on the beaches, I may mention, that some Sundays ago I walked the whole length of Sandy Bay beach from the Long beach to the Maryville Esplanade & found the beaches clean. At one or two points there was a potent bad smell, but, barring the drains which Mr Perkins & the residents ran from their houses down the banks onto the beach, the cause of the high odours was discovered in the putrefying bodies of a retriever dog in one place & of a large pig in another, and perhaps here & there a little decaying seaweed. The fact is that is the flotsam & jetsam from vessels - notably the fleet - which cause whatever there is objectionable on the beaches. The sewage is reduced in its passage down the drains to a finely subdivided fluid which on reaching & mingling with the salt water is at once rendered innocuous.

R M Johnston
says. Talk of
polluting the
river with the
Hobart sewage!
You might as well
talk of polluting
the solar system!

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Melb.

But there are a number of 'shriekers', who - partly from love of attaining a little notoriety, partly from a morbid fussiness, partly from ignorance of a profound sort, & partly from a real conviction that things ought to be improved - are perpetually agitating, spouting at public meetings, writing furious letters to the papers, and in all their utterances vehemently asserting that Hobart is the dirtiest & most unhealthy town in Australia & a hot bed of typhoid & diphtheria, in which one can only reside at the risk of one's life. W. H. Perkins, Arthur Eckford, Major Gen Tottenham, and Mr Henry Dobson will serve for types. They ignore the fact that Melbourne & Sydney suffer periodically from worse outbursts of typhoid - notably at the present moment - and that the health statistics give the lie to their alarmist ravings. The unfortunate result of this hysterical shrieking, in which the newspapers more or less join, is that the idea has gone forth become common in the other colonies, that Hobart, by the reluctant testimony of her residents & her press, is proved to be dangerously insalubrious, and visitors are prevented from coming or cut their visits short - to the great loss of the town. If the bad reputation was merited, they would be justified.

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15 March. Their warnings and denunciations would be not only necessary and praiseworthy, for the sake of residents in Hobart, but also deserving of laudation as a benevolent ^{+ disinterested} attempt ~~even to their loss~~ - by speaking the truth even to their own loss - to prevent visitors ~~incurring~~ in search of health from running fearful risk of infection.

In the actual condition of things they are - probably unwittingly & ignorantly in most cases - propagating absolute falsehood, & inflicting serious damage on the town.

Sir E Braddon has been speaking a few sensible words on the folly of these hysterical shriekers, & on the mischief they are doing, & has been stating the actual facts as shown by the health statistics, and comparing the health of Hobart with that of other Australian cities. Perhaps the fact that the wife of his bitterest opponent - Henry Dobson - has taken a prominent part in the agitation may have given a certain edge to his indignation.

1896

Thursday. 12 Nov 1896

There are signs that the cloud of depression that has so long hung over this colony in common with the whole of Australia is at last beginning to lift. By remorseless retrenchment in all departments the public expenditure has been much reduced, and by new taxes, specially the Income Tax, the revenue has been increased, until in place of the increasing annual deficiency that was so alarming ~~three or~~ ^{four or five} ~~four~~ years since, the Treasurer can show an increasing surplus. There is now a fair prospect of gradually wiping out the accumulated deficiencies, which form even yet a floating debt of nearly £400,000. In fact the debt has been substantially reduced in the last year or two. Our farmers had a good season last year & improved prices - produce having risen in many cases nearly 50%. Wool also has improved - which means a good deal in this colony - altho ^{wool now} ~~it~~ does not hold the leading position among our exports that it once did. The Western Mineral fields continue to improve in their prospects, and the smelting at Mount Lyell bids fair to be more successful than was expected. The large scale of the operations there ~~are~~ ^{will} necessitate a large amount of labour. The mining population is increasing, and there are now probably 5000, or 6000 on the West Coast.

1896
12 Nov.

People are growing more hopeful, Property is beginning to move, and it is becoming possible to sell, though still at low prices. Farms are in demand by tenants, & pastoral properties are recovering somewhat. The shadow of bad times is slowly passing away from us.

It has been a trying and disastrous time for many, a trying time for all. ~~After 1890-91~~ Though in Tasmania there has not been the widespread ruin that the other colonies have suffered from, there are few here who have not had their incomes largely reduced - many to half what they once had. Retrenchment & pinching has been the order of the day everywhere. Those who held shares in Banks & other Companies have for the most part had to go with small dividends or none at all, while many have been reduced to poverty by calls consequent on the stoppage of Banks that were considered safe & prudent investments. In fact those who avoided speculation, & would not touch mining shares, have fared the worst. The mining speculator in No Liability Cos merely lost the money he had put in, the prudent investor in Bank Shares not only lost his original capital but in many cases had a millstone hung round his neck in the shape of calls extending over years. Even Shareholders in sound Banks, such as

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our own Commercial, have been heavy losses. Shares bought at £10 five or six years since having sunk to £2 or £2.10.

I have been more fortunate than most. On mining speculations I have always steadily lost, and the last few years have formed no exception. A few hundreds would cover these losses. On mortgages on small farms I have dropped perhaps £100 or £200 of the family money - nearly all loans for small sums to Irishmen, usually at the 4th or 5th. But our firm has been on the whole fortunate with its mortgages for its clients, as compared with many other offices. Hardly any of our securities have turned out bad, and the loss on those that have has been comparatively trifling. I know most Solicitors' offices have had a much worse experience.

It is curious, too, that in spite of depression & bad times our net receipts in profits has varied very little, in fact has kept practically steady for the last 5 or 6 years. I can't account for this at all. So that I may say that, ~~taking into account~~ through the reduced expenditure which becomes the fashion in bad times, I am actually in a better position than I was when the boom was at its height in 1890.

I find however, many hints that I am growing old. Any physical exertion soon

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12 Nov.

exhausts me, and I am growing stiff & awkward in movement. But what has troubled me most lately is failure of memory. Not only do I constantly forget names, but my lapse of memory with respect to current business & affairs is very trying & troublesome. For things that happened long since my memory is perhaps as good as ever, but for things of to day it plays me sad tricks. I believe the habit of making constant notes has weakened my memory but this does not account for all.

I find also that I have not the same alertness of mind & power of work. Work is often irksome, & it takes me much longer to do it than it used. It is often difficult to concentrate attention & at times I feel as if I had ~~lost~~^{not} the power to think. I remember that my father at about the same age used to make the same complaint. He died at 59 and I am now 55, in fact in my 56th year. How shrunken the rest of life looks now! Once it seemed as if the prospect in front was boundless. Now I seem to be drawing swiftly to the conclusion, and this makes a wonderful difference in one's point of view.

Saturday. 6th Feby 1897.

A most delightful day at Tinder Box. When Mary and I started for the 'Huberna' the sky was overcast & rain seemed to threaten. We found Lieut Dawson (of HMS Penguin) on board with his little boy, also bound for Tinder Box. Mr & Mrs Harrison Carter, (relatives of Mary Pryor Hack) were also on board. As we got down the River the weather cleared & by the time we reached Tinder Box the sun was shining gloriously. The Masons were on the beach to welcome us, and were as charming as they always are. We climbed up to the house, which is beautifully situated on one side of a steep gully which runs down to the waters of the Channel. The house stands half way up the hill & looks out over the mouth of the Channel with the Iron Pot, South Arm & the blue hills of Tasman's Peninsula beyond the shining water; in front is Kelly's Point & Dennis's house & garden; to the right, southward, you look straight down the Channel. The day was perfect, the waters just rippled with a light breeze, a most exquisite blue, & the ~~whole~~ air saturated with sunshine. The whole scene a singularly perfect land- or rather seascape, which it would be difficult to match anywhere. Tom Mason, Dawson, Young Tom, & Peppin, took a stroll over the ~~ground~~ of the hill behind the house, from whence

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you look up North West Bay & beyond its expanse of water see Hellington, the Huon Belle, & part of the Hellington Range, a view quite equal in its way - if not more more beautiful & striking - ~~than~~^{to} that from the house. After lunch played Badminton with the girls (Annie & Heather Mason) and tried golf over the links with Tom Mason, young Tom, & Dawson. & then played Badminton again till tea.

~~The~~ The Masons are perfect hosts, & to be in their company is like sitting in the sunshine. The world puts on a brighter hue, and one is both refreshed & stimulated.

Our friendship with them, short as it has been, is a thing to be remembered.

Tom Mason I had known for some years, a fine type of the North Country English Squire. A short, thickset man with a large golden red moustache, blue eyes, and open florid face, beaming with kindness & humor. A cultivated man with a strong love of art and considerable knowledge of it. A good judge of it, yet with all the country gentleman's devotion to country pursuits and out door sports. A fine healthy genial nature. Knowing his love of art I asked him to come up to see Mary's studio, & thus began a most delightful friendship with the family. The two girls, Annie & Heather, who both have considerable artistic taste & faculty,

abt 1893 or 94.
~~John~~ Easton
1894
but perhaps this
was not his
first visit.

came up from Carnarvon & stayed with us
some weeks, and we all became fast friends.

To Mary in particular their visit gave
new life & energy. Their sympathetic appreciation
of her work, and the keen interest they took
in it, their intelligent & encouraging criticism,
were such a stimulus that her work
improved marvellously & she painted
better than she had ever done before,
no wonder that she became warmly attached
to them, and they on their side were equally
devoted to her. ~~Then she~~ The friendships
changed & brightened her life, & corrected
the tendency she has to take despondent
views of things.

At Easter 1895 Mary went down to stay
with them at Carnarvon - and since after
various visits were exchanged - Mary
made several stays at Carnarvon
& painted most of the family, to their
great satisfaction & delight. Indeed
her ~~plea~~ portrait of Tom Mason is
the best thing she has ever done &
a most admirable likeness. It is the
man himself. He seems ready to speak
to you. She also painted, in addition
to the family portraits, a picture
called 'The Goose Girl', for which Heather
Mason with her splendid hair sat as
model. It is a good picture & was
bought at once by Lady Gornouaston.
Some good landscapes were also painted
at Carnarvon.

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The girls visits to us were always delightful. They both have charmingly simple & frank ways, & sweet dispositions. They are both distinctly clever & well read. Annie Mason has marked literary talent, and ~~some of~~ her short tales & sketches show a delicate touch. Her plots are defective, but in ~~the~~ sympathetic drawing of character and in a delicate & simple pathos ~~she~~ her stories are admirable & show great promise of better work. She has quite a remarkable power of description, and can bring the feeling of the bush, its ways and its people, before you in a most living way, by subtle touches.

I may here jot down the few stories &c by her which I have seen. (Signed A.V.M.)

"A Tasmanian Idyll." Australasian 29 Dec. 1896

"Photographs; a Love Story." Cosmos. 31 Aug
& 30 Sept 1896.

"A Chopping Match" The (London) Graphic: abt 1896
and two "MSS."

One (of which I have forgotten the name) a pathetic little story of an old Lancashire woman in the Tasmanian Bush. Much of it in dialect [Lancashire & Tasmanian].

The other called "A Tale from Fur-back" being the ideas & love ^{story} ~~making~~ of a ^{young} ~~boy~~ of Tasmania's Peninsula. This is a very clever study of the ways of thinking & speaking of one of those young men, ~~of~~ who, though almost altogether ~~un~~educated, have yet a strong love of nature & quaint original

ways of thinking about nature - whom one sometimes meets with amongst the Splitters & Bushmen in districts "far-back." The dialect is this story is also an interesting & very careful study of our strange colonial dialect or rather accent.

While Annie Mason is gentle & retiring, her sister Heather is the practical one of the family; active, vigorous, outspoken & warm hearted. She is an adept at outdoor games, at dairying & other country accomplishments. Her cream cheese & her butter are famed far beyond the peninsula. Moreover she has no mean artistic faculty, especially in modelling - executing in wax or clay excellent ~~port~~ medallion portraits & groups; & modelling graceful designs in pottery out of the fine Carnarvon clay.

The sisters are very different in appearance. The elder has a gentle refined ^{larger features} face, the younger is much more animated & vivacious, with a high complexion & a nose almost retroussé; her hair is her chief beauty, a great mass of glowing sunny colour.

The sons, Tom, Walter & Frank are less noticeable than their sisters. Young country gentlemen, with some artistic faculty, which has however not been developed.

Mrs Mason is the ruling spirit. The essence of kindness & thoughtfulness, though somewhat masterful; she has less of the restfulness which the others inspire. Baby (the grandchild) is a delightful child of some 3 years old - with bright eager face. Their house at Carnarvon was a charming

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place, full of fine books & good pictures, many
by well known painters, ^{old family photo & glass} & all the refinements
which cultivated well to do people with
a fine taste love to surround themselves
with.

After this long digression, I may as well
finish my note of the visit to Linder Box,
which by the way is the second visit.
Isa & I had an equally delightful trip
there about two months ago - Sat. 2 Jan -
when Mr Dawson & his two children also
went down. On that occasion we all went
up Mount Lewis. The weather then was
perfect - in fact there was nothing to choose
between the two days.

In the cool of the evening we sat down
to tea in the little dining room which could
with difficulty hold us all; the children
Dick Dawson & Dorothy Gurney (Baby) sitting
at a separate little table to their great content.
The meal was a merry one, with plenty of
laughter, but for all that dashed by the
thought that it was the last ^{occasion} (at least
for a long time) that we should meet
there. The shadow of their ^{approaching} coming
departure for England gave a certain
seriousness and intensity to even casual
conversation. After tea Miss Heather
photographed the whole party with the
cliff for a background, and about 8
o'clock the 'Hubena' hove in sight & we
reluctantly turned our backs on Linder Box
carrying away the recollection of a day
of pure enjoyment. How very rare such days

1897

Feb. 16 - Tuesday.

These partings with friends are heart-breaking work, and I don't know that as one gets older one does not feel them more instead of less. One knows from bitter experience how often they are, in some sense at least, final. That is, it is so seldom that one can pick up again the ~~interrupted~~ broken thread and hold it exactly as before. ~~Today we went down~~ One gets hardened as to partings with acquaintances, however pleasant they may be, but when it comes to parting with friends to whom one is attached it is a different matter. And to see them off by a steamer is a dismal "prolonging of the agony." I went with Mary, Lizzie, & Isa to see the Masons off by the S.S. 'China'. (P.O. St. 8000 tons) Besides the Masons, there were a number of other Hobart people: Bishop Montgomery, his wife & family, Mary Atkins, May Hoolough, Revs. Dickson & Dixon - including 10 children - (These all went Second Class) It was glorious weather, brilliant hot sunshine & a light cool breeze. We got down about half past 11. The ship was literally crammed with crowds of people, so that one could hardly move. It was the usual thing. ~~One kept~~ Everyone trying to look cheerful, with but indifferent success - ~~and breaking the painful silence with remarks~~ ^{themselves} and forcing ~~oneself~~ to make indifferent remarks to break the painful tension of the silence. Oh! it's a

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wretched business. After half an hour of this, the order came for visitors to leave, and we stood another quarter of an hour on the wharf, while the huge ships slowly backed out into the harbor, and we caught the last ^{glimpse} ~~light~~ of our friends, & ^{weaved them} ~~weaved them~~ ^{farewell}. We came back quite used up and dejected.

I am particularly grieved for Mary's sake. They have been so much a part of her life for the last year or two, that it will take her some time to recover from the wrench their leaving causes her. And more than this, she has lost ~~such~~ ~~the~~ strong incentive & encouragement which they gave her in her work; making her feel now more isolated than ever.

I hope that, as they all detested the idea of going - except Mrs Mason - they may soon grow tired of England, & return to the Colonies, which they much prefer. Probably in another 18 months we may be welcoming them back, especially as the boys remain, Tom here & Walter & Frank in NZ, and it is not likely that Mrs Mason will bear being parted from them permanently.

97
Thursday, 25 Feb.

Mary has done good work this year. No doubt this is largely due to the sympathetic appreciation & encouragement of the Masons. She works chiefly in oils but I think is even more successful in pastel. Her first Commission for a portrait was for a small boy of Wm. Butler. This was not altogether a success. A pastel of the same child was more successful, & she afterward did a pastel of Miss Sarah Butler which showed a considerable advance. She also painted a picture of Dora Perkins knitting, a good study of an orchard, & of a girl shelling peas. Also a good pastel of a girl model. In Easter 1895 she went to visit the Masons at Carnarvon & painted the portraits of the family to their great satisfaction. Mrs Mason, & Miss Annie, Miss Heather in pastel (very good) but best of all Tom Mason himself, far the best thing she has ever done. It is a most admirable likeness. You almost expect to hear him speak.

Later in the year she did an admirable pastel of Mr H H Buckland, an ideal portrait. This brought her commissions from Mr H H Buckland's family, the Brights of Dunedin, & in the Christmas holidays she went to Dunedin & painted, in oil or pastel, nearly all the family. On her return she did a pastel of the youngest daughter, Marguerite, (called Queenie) who is at Lake School.

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On another visit to Carnarvon, she painted a picture of 'The Goose Girl' Miss Heather Mason posing as model, and also painted two or three good landscapes.

Lady Gormanston, to whom she was introduced by poor old Mrs Meredith, & who has a taste for art, has been coming to the studio & working there for some months. She at once bought 'The Goose Girl' & gave Mary a commission for a life size portrait. At this Mary worked for a long time & produced a very good portrait. When it was finished 1 Dec/96 Mary had an 'at home' to which Lady Gormanston & a large number of Society people came. It was a most successful function. After this she painted the Rev^d G. Clarke, a strong portrait but rather uncompromising.

Then when Miss Heather Mason was staying here, she painted a picture of a 'Girl & Mirror', Miss H.M. being the model. A fine study showing considerable power.

Now, urged by the Masons, she has had an exhibition of her work, covering one side of the smaller room of the Art Gallery at the Museum - a very good show.

1897 -

Feb 5

The condition of the colony has decidedly improved this year. There is a distinct improvement in business, & prices are better, & people have begun to hope for the future. Things are looking up, though property is still almost unsaleable, and interest has shrunk to $4\frac{1}{2}\%$ and even 4% , to the great distress of many families dependent on investments. Our business has been good - considerably better than last year. It is a puzzle to me how our returns have kept up - for conveyancing, our principal line - has been almost nil. But during all the depression the income from the business has hardly varied £100 a year. This year has been exceptionally good, so that I have been able to clear off all debts (except the £500 representing the cost of Mary's visit to England).

Holmfraen, taking advantage of the general cheapness, has built a house on the Augusta Road, costing with the land over £2000. Alan Walker was the architect, & has made a charming place of it.

Building was hardly ever so cheap as last year & the year before. Elsie has built on their block of land in Macquarie Street. The house is of brick, two stories, with 8 rooms, bath-room & outbuildings. Including asphalt yard, fences &c it cost only £550. Twenty years ago it would have cost £800 or £900.

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March 5 (cont.) It was paid for out of the accumulation of the £100 given by To Robert by Tysk as a bonus for his services during Tysk's visit to England years ago, & the saving of the girls themselves. It is really a delight to have to do with people so capable of helping themselves.

Sarah's school is also a success. She has moved from the house opposite to the Barrack Square, to the house where Mrs Reynolds formerly had a school. She has now over 50 scholars & is much happier & less worried than when she was at the Ladies College. Sarah is Principal & Poppy Clarke is her assistant & partner. It is an ideal combination. Poppy's faculty of organization just supplies what Sarah wants, and Sarah has just the moral support she requires to prevent her worrying unduly. It seems a sort of cooperative affair. The staff consists of Miss Bignell, Maud Maxwell, Minnie Clarke, Isa, Hannah Giblin, Maud Barnard, and Kathie. All enthusiastic about the school & all friends - working together most harmoniously. It is a good sign that the girls are so attached to the school. We have as boarders Nellie Sayce & Daisy Brock. Of course Nellie does not pay, but Daisy Brock, (daughter of Harry Brock of Golden Gate notonely does) It is very pleasant to have these children in

5 the house, & B. Butler & Daisy Atkins
come every day to dinner.

We have had an extraordinary summer,
& a great drought. From Oct to Christmas
we had no rain, but hot weather - most
exceptionally hot. & the farmers as usual
were in despair. At Christmas I had
a delightful trip in a ketch for 5 days,
with Cecil & Russell Allport, Louis
Dobson, W. H. Dawson, Bourne and
Adams (Clerk in Whit's office) We
had delightful weather & got down as
far as Recherche Bay. One of the
most enjoyable cruises I ever had.

January was cloudy & chilly, but
with no volume of rain. The weather
broke after Christmas. The early part
of February was hot, 18 Feb, the day
of the Bayles-Clarke wedding was
something terrible, about 96° in shade.
Then the weather broke again, & on
24th Feb, we had fine rains, and
again on 2nd March some good showers.

The farmers in many parts have
suffered much from the drought, which
has also damaged the fruit crop - in
fact the small fruits were almost a
failure - But I think on the whole it
won't be such a bad season as one
might have expected.

I have long given up Society functions,
but this year under the influence of Mary
and the Masons, I have had an uninvited

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March 5. Season of gaudy (The season has been the best in the way of visitors that we have had for years). I have actually been to three balls. First, at Government House on 20th Jan'y; Second, on H.M.S. 'Orlando' on the next night; third, the Royal Tennis Ball at the Town Hall on 4th Feby. The last was due to a sense of duty, as member of the Club Committee, and we made nearly £30 profit out of it. On 19 Feby I went to an afternoon 'At Home' on H.M.S. 'Dart' and on 2nd March to a similar function on the Austrian warship 'Albatros'. These were very pleasant affairs. The Captain & most of the Austrian officers speak wondrous good English, & nothing could exceed their courtesy & attention to their visitors. The 'Albatros' is a scientific ship. They had an affair with the natives in the Solomon Islands, which seemed to have been due to imprudence & lost some officers & men. Here they are conducting magnetic & pendulum observations. Captⁿ Mauller is a fine type of a sailor. Lt. Comr Bublay who acted as Captⁿ during Mauller's absence is a charming man, and so are Lieuts Radon, Michageli (a volatile Italian who sings English Coster songs marvellously well) and others.

March 5. There have been crowds of visitors over this year. It has been a great pleasure to me to have the son of my old friend of 30 years ago, Jonathan Backhouse Hodgkin - J. Edward Hodgkin. Young Hodgkin came here about 5 May 1896 & stayed here some weeks. He was keen on shooting with gun & camera. He is about 20 years old & a delightful youngster - Big & stout & with a charming boyishness and keen enjoyment of life - a general favourite wherever he went. This was due I think to his simple kindly nature & his charming courtesy to everyone - as courteous to a waiter as to a Governor. He belongs to the old Quaker Stock & is related to the Peases (his mother was a Pease) to the Backhouses, Hodgkin the author of 'Invaders of Italy'. Mr Justice Fry, the Buxtons include Sir Fowell Buxton (Governor of South Australia) & other Quaker families. I had a few pleasant days with him at Saltwater River, Tasman Pen^a. He left here for the winter & went up via Sydney & Brisbane to Thursday Island, having a very good time, and came back here about New Year's day, leaving for New Zealand on 15th Jan'y.

Another visitor was S. Hay, Chief Justice of Aust^a, whom I used to know well when he was a young man.

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March 5

Somewhere before 1870 - He was one of the first who discovered Tasmania as a place for a holiday - with James Smith of Melbourne. I had not seen him for 10 years, when Giblin was on his death bed - He called at the office - being mindful of former acquaintance - & I had some very pleasant intercourse with him. While here he received the honour of appointment to H.M. Privy Council as a member of the Council's Judicial Committee, having been nominated by all the Colonies to represent the Australian Judges. This is an honour hitherto unique of its kind. Former Privy Councillorships have been conferred as mere compliments, but this is the first working appointment. He told me that if the appointment had necessitated residence in England he would have declined it, but that he would be sent for only when he was wanted for actual work.

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March 5.

Federal Convention Elections.

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Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Some months since a Public Meeting was held to decide on the most appropriate method of commemorating the longest (and most prosperous) reign in English history. A Committee was appointed to consider the various schemes proposed: amongst these were a clock tower; a Blind School; a Convalescent Home; and a new Public Library. The Committee decided on the library & this was adopted by a second Public Meeting. It was proposed to build at back of Town Hall, on angle of Elizabeth & Davey Streets. The building to cost about £3000, of which the Trustees had £1500 in hand for money invested which had been appropriated by Parliament many years since (at suggestion of late J. D. Chapman) out of proceeds of escheated properties. When the Govt (in person of Sir P. O. Fysh) was approached, the deputation - which was an influential one, consisting of the Municipal Council, the Library Trustees, the Committee & prominent citizens (including City members) was met with a flat refusal. Fysh said the Government would establish a Blind School, and would subsidize nothing but the project for a Convalescent Home, as proposed by Lady Gormanston. He said that the

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June 25 (cont) Queen's wish was that all memorials should be institutions for benefit of poor & helpless. The Launceston people were also told that a Convalescent Home was the only project that would be supported for the North. But they had set their hearts on a Maternity Hospital, for which some hundreds of pounds had been subscribed. Mrs Reed contributed £200. The dictatorial tone of the Treasurer only brought out their obstinacy, & they flatly refused the Home. But this I said the Govt would hold over any grant until to see if a Convalescent Home was started, & if it was not, then they might recommend Parliament to make the grant to the Maternity Hospital.

In the South little came in for subscription. Various lectures & addresses precluded on the Queen's reign precluded the day of celebration. Amongst others one by Dr Clifford the well known Baptist Minister of London, on 'The Greater Britain of the Future'; and one by myself on 'Hobart 1837: 1897 - A Comparison', illustrated by a large number of limelight views. This was in the Masonic Hall. The room was crowded & the lecture went off well. I also wrote for the 'Launceston Daily Telegraph' a five column article on the 'Progress of Tasmania from 1837 to 1897'.

On Saturday, 19 June a great dinner came off at the Tasmanian Club. The Governor (Lord Gormanston) was there as

a guest. Sir La. Agnew in the chair. 46
members sat down to dinner. I did not go,
not being inclined to spend 30/.

On Sunday 20th (Accession Day) all
Churches &c had special services. Mr.
Clarke preached a very good sermon at
Davy Street.

At noon on Saturday the members
of the Civil Service made a demonstration
in Franklin Square, before the Public
Offices. There was a band, a speech from
Sir P. O'Hys, & the proceedings concluded
with all singing 'God save the Queen'

On Accession Day, Sunday, 20th,
all churches &c had special services.

Rev Geo Clarke at Davy Street preached
a very good sermon, with special reference to
the benefits received during the long reign,
& the duty of intercessory prayer.

After Church I went to see the decorations
of the School Room in Harrington St, arranged
by Mr Fincham. At the end of the room
was a good portrait of the Queen surrounded
with ivy & floral decorations on a red
background; round the ornamental
ironwork of the gallery was a motto
from Leucydon in large red letters:
"Her Court was pure: God gave her
peace: her land reposed:" the space
under the gallery between the pillars
was draped with looped up flaps -
all new & bright. The whole a most
tasteful harmony of ornament & colour.

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June 25th In the afternoon a great service was held in the Cathedral, to which all officials &c were invited - many in official dress. Said to have been a fine ceremony - Archdeacon Whitington preached.

I went to an address by Rev. D. Clifford at the Temperance Hall, (which was nearly full, in spite of Cathedral service & all the special services which every Sunday School held.) I sat at the extreme end of the gallery, where I had a complete view of the congregation. The absence of prominent people was most noticeable - most of these being at the Cathedral or their own services.

Women preponderated, and the congr. had the distinct "nonconformist" colour. Mostly trades people - of the "lower middle class". Their sympathies were shown by the warm applause which greeted the speaker's allusions to the decay of clericalism as a power. Clifford is a thin wiry man, with a fine bald head, & a long rather rough sandy beard. His action was that of an energetic & nervous speaker, the action of his hands, & thin bony fingers, was striking & effective. His speech was forcible & direct, and his points clearly put & well made. The style not florid, but strong & at times eloquent. From my position I looked down upon him & noticed his careful study beforehand of his notes, written

in a small clear hand
out on half sheets of note paper in a
small hand with broad margin. When
he spoke he put his notes aside altogether.

He began by taking a rapid survey of
English possessions at the Queen's accession,
contrasting the trouble in Canada, India &
then with the peace & prosperity now.
He rapidly sketched the four classes in
the community: (1) The rich who could get
all they wanted by drawing a cheque -
(2) The wage earning torters. (3) The criminal.
(4) The unfortunate. The first two belonging
to the body politic, the last two being
excluded from it; and then proceeded
to show how each class had been affected
during the reign of 60 years. (1) The growth
of sympathy in the rich class for their
torturing brethren, which he illustrated by an
extract from a speech of the Duke of
Albany, that wealth was now admitted
to be the price paid for services to be
rendered to the community: that whereas
60 years since the wealthy classes prided
themselves on being idle, now their desire
was to show they were not idle. (2) He
gave with a splendid rendering (of itself
fine enough to repay one for going to the
address) of Carlyle's descriptions of the
dumb inarticulate body of workers, &
contrasted it with the present condition of
things when the balance of power was changed.
(3) He sketched the feeling towards criminals
60 years since - the barbarous punishments

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(Cont)

which he said Marcus Clarke had rather veiled (.) than exaggerated - the condition of debtors prisons & ^(vide Dickens) the present recognition that the object of penal discipline must be the good of the criminal.

(4) The awakening of sympathy for the poor & unfortunate. That an advance had been made. The franchise had been widened, until every man had a vote. Clerical domination was gone (cheers) other dominations were going. In many things these colonies had shown the way to England, & the mother country had accepted the leading. In nothing more than in education, in which the colonies had shown a splendid example.

He went on to say that where we used to hear only of an individual conscience, we now heard of many consciences - the national conscience, the mercantile conscience, the industrial conscience, & the nonconformist conscience. This was a sign of awakening of something greater than mere individual responsibility, of a collective responsibility. The industrial conscience meant that all men should reap the fair fruits of labour. The nonconformist conscience (which included a large body of the Anglican Church) meant that there was a conviction that wrongs should be righted - that there should be no legal sanction of evil - that social slavery should be abolished &c. The national

Conscience meant that we had begun to appreciate that National ~~of~~ life includes private lives - that no man could live a life apart from the rest - that Government was not to sit still & look on - but must act for the benefit of all & not of a class.

Altogether it was a most able & stimulating address.

At midnight on Sunday Trinity Bells rang out a peal in honour of the completion of a 60 years absolutely without precedent in the history of the world for progress in liberty & civilisation.

Tuesday, the 22^d had been fixed all through the colonies, as in England, for the great celebration.

The first event in Hobart was the procession from the Town Hall, up Macquarie Street, down Barrack St, thence by Liverpool Street to the Domain. I took the girls, Poppy & Minnie Clarke, & Eileen Nicholas to the Emporium where we viewed the procession from the roof of the Shop.

First came the volunteers with band, ~~the~~ they numbered over 800, the bulk being the country rifle corps, a fine body of men, in Kaki uniform. Then followed, with another band, the friendly Societies, chiefly remarkable for their grotesque and bizarre adornments - or regalia, as they call them - reaching the acme of bad taste; the Druids masquerading in long white beards and nightgowns, though these were

This was the worst managed part. The police failed to keep the ground & the crowd walked over the children who got hopelessly mixed. Add to which they were kept on the ground for more than 4 hours, cold & hungry - 10 to after 2, or nearer 3 PM.

After the Review we walked up to the Military Camp on the Doumain Hill behind the Straberry before, you come to Morton's house & saw the troops march in & dismiss. Then home, cold & hungry, to dinner.

In evening after tea, with party of girls - Sisters, Clarkes (whom we met at Station) including Mrs Clarke) Eileen Nicholas, & Miss Hatchorn - to see fireworks in Doumain. Crowd said to be larger than in afternoon, but I could not see. Fireworks; rockets, cascades of fire, set pieces &c - exceedingly good. Not one failure. Then round town to see illuminations. The University was illuminated with candles in all panes. most pretty effect. Gas illuminations failed on account of wind. Many not attempted even. Only those in sheltered situations burning.

Town Hall & Commercial Bank lighted along main lines of building with coloured electric lights. (by Tram Co) Very brilliant, & gemlike effect.

In evening Tasmanian Club had a reception. 9 to 11. great many ladies & gentlemen there. Governor (Viscount

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June 25
(cont)

Comaustou) came in read telegram from Queen. Before leaving Buckingham Palace on her progress to Service at St Paul's she sent telegrams to all colonies & dependencies. The Tas. telegram was: "To the Governor & People of Tasmania. From my heart I thank my beloved people. May God bless them."

We were not then at the Club, having taken up our position at the Town Hall where a great crowd was assembled to hear 'The Hymn of Praise'. The streets were packed from Argyll Street to the Commercial Bank & some distance up Elizabeth Street. The Governor & party arrived about 10 & the Gov. read the Queen's telegram which was received with great cheering. The Hymn of Praise 'All people that on earth do dwell' was then sung, the crowd joining heartily in the Doxology; and afterwards in 'God Save the Queen'. The singing was timed to coincide with the singing of the 'Hymn' at St Paul's, at noon of the same day. Got home very tired; after going into the Club with the girls Isa, Sam, Miss Hatchorn & E. Nicholas. & I took in later A. J. Bell & Horace Walch - finishing up at Athenaeum Club, which was prettily illuminated with electric lamps & fairy lamps.

On Wed 25th (the holidays extending over three days) there was a sham fight

in the Domain, to which we did not go.

After dinner took the girls to a great fair at the Cricket Ground in aid of the Convalescent Home, Lady Gornallston's Scheme. A great crowd & great success. Admission 6^d Children 3^d, volunteers & many others free. Total gate money £97.

I congratulated the Chief, Sir Lambert Dobson, on his KCMG. just announced.

The honours for Tasmania are judiciously few. Braddon as Premier is made a Privy Councillor.

The Chief Justice KCMG which he well deserves. The Governor gets the G.C.MG.

The general opinion is that the Mayor, Mr Davies, is hugely disappointed - having expected to be knighted. It would have been a sad abuse of the dignity (such as it is) & people almost universally are pleased that it was not conferred on one who so little deserved it. It must however in justice be said that the Mayor performed his part well & the dinner to the poor, though badly attended, was excellent & the Balls on the Thurs & Fri were well managed.

After tea we sallied forth. Lizzie, Isa, Poppy Clarke, Eileen Nicholas & Miss Patchorn - to see the "Aquatic Procession". Sam & Mary went with Miss Oliver to the Wharf, but we went out into the Domain to the hill in the neighbourhood of the Camp. Here we had a splendid view. The river was stretched out in

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June 25 front, & we could dimly see the further
(cont) Shore. The procession of boats came
round Macquarie Point - led by the
'Kangaroo' (Twins) St^r which was brightly
illuminated. Following the Steamer was
a yacht dressed with red Chinese
lanterns, & then a string of watermen's
boats all brilliant with numerous
lights. The procession advanced towards
Goat House, the boats throwing up
red & green lights as they went.
The scene was remarkably pretty &
striking, other steamers & boats,
more or less illuminated with lanterns &
accompanying the main procession.
When they came nearly up to the
Powder Jetty, the Kangaroo turned &
the boats followed in a curving
Crescent, & the procession made for
Bellerive. We then left the hill &
made for the top of the old quarry
near the University, from which point
the view of the illuminated town was
particularly beautiful. The Town Hall,
Savings Bank, & Liverpool Street shone
out conspicuously & the general effect
was exceedingly striking. Noticeable
was Bennison's flag staff, (at the old
cottage where Grandfather Mather
lived) dressed with two long festoons
of coloured lights & lanterns, making
a striking object from most points of
view. From the quarry we hurried

to the Durum St Pier in time to see the
Flotilla come in - a pretty sight - while
the 'Donali' fired signal rockets, going
up an immense height & bursting with
a noise louder than a cannon, which
echoed & reechoed along the hills in
a startling manner.

I have forgotten to mention the bonfires
which were lighted about 6 PM. There
was a fine one at Bellerive, another
at the Springs, one on Knocklofty,
and an elaborate one on Dobson's
Hill above the Buon Road, arranged
by W. Maule. In the face of the hill
a large 'FR' was cut in trenches, with
the figures '60' underneath. The trenches
were filled with brushwood & when
lighted, the design shone out finely.
Above on the top of the hill was a
large bonfire. But the champion
was the Sandy Bay bonfire, built
above Tolman's (Dyngene) above
the Proctor's Road. It was said to
contain 200 loads of wood, & certainly
was a magnificent blaze - though
it burnt out in a short time, the
glowing embers lasted some hours.

On leaving Durum St Pier we went
round the town to see the illuminations.
The night was warm & perfectly calm
& the gas illuminations burnt perfectly.
Perhaps the best were the Gas Co's office
& the Savings Bank corner. The Savings

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(cont^d)

Bank was decorated with wreaths of ivy & flowers, floral motto, flags &c. (much as we did it in 1868 when the Duke of Edinburgh visited Tasmania) & was very effective. The Government Buildings were very shabby, except the Lands Office which was ~~very~~ tastefully illuminated with coloured globes. After doing the illuminations thoroughly we got home dog-tired.

The telegrams tell us that the Celebrations in London were magnificent. The weather was splendid. 40,000 troops lined the streets. Two millions of people viewed the procession to & from St Pauls, & the illuminations were magnificent.

A great feature has been the prominence given to the Colonies. All Colonial Premiers were invited & attended & made guests of the nation at the Hotel Cecil. The Colonial troops formed part of the guard of the Queen, & they & the Premiers were enthusiastically cheered all along the route. The Premiers were all made Privy Councillors. This has been a very Statesmanlike idea. It has done much to impress on the English people the solidarity of the Empire, & has greatly pleased the colonies. It will bear fruit in the future.

Thursday. 18th November

On Saturday the 5th we buried the best man in Hobart, my dear old friend James Hatch. For years he has been suffering from the last stages of asthma, & his life has been a martyrdom. A few weeks since he went up to Sydney with Mr Hatch, his daughter Minna being ill there. He came back almost in a dying state on the Sunday, & after lingering five days died at midnight on Thursday 11th - just a fortnight ago. Happily at the last he ceased to suffer, and his depression from which he had so long clouded his spirits was lifted, and his mind was clear and calm. He passed away almost imperceptibly in his sleep. He was buried in the family vault at the back of the Congregational Church New Town. The little church was crammed with a very representative gathering, from the Chief Justice Robson downwards, assembled to show their respect to a man greatly beloved by all who knew him. Son of a soldier, he was worthy of Wordsworth's description of the Happy Warrior - A man of chivalrous honour; of a gentle and beautiful courtesy; of a fine courage and indomitable will which enabled him to perform his daily work under circumstances of bodily illness under which most men would have succumbed and resigned themselves to lead the life of an invalid. His chivalrous ~~devotion~~^{sense of} duty was one of

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his most striking characteristics, this devoted care of his family and of their training was very beautiful. Its effects can be seen in his family of five grown up sons, and in his four daughters.

On the next day, Sunday, 6th, we buried poor old Uncle Samuel Benson Mattheu, the last of the older generation of Mathers.

~~My mother~~ The youngest of the old family, surviving the eldest (my dear mother) by some four years. It was she who stood to him in the place of a mother when his own mother died. He was of the old Wesleyan type - fervid and emotional - not so strong either in character or mind as his brothers Joseph or Robert Andrew, but with much of the old Mattheu (or Benson) obstinacy. For years he had been suffering from a shaking palsy & for many months has been quite helpless from severe paralysis, during which time he has been tenderly nursed by his daughter Lizzie Heyward & his grandchildren. His death can only be called a merciful release to himself and those about him. He was buried in the Friends Burial Ground, though a staunch Wesleyan, the rite at the grave was after the manner of Friends, for the Friends here think themselves bound to uphold their testimony, and to forbid any formal service by a minister, even over those not of their own communion. It seems to me to be a view

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of the matter unworthy of those holding the principles of absolute freedom of conscience that are so distinguishing of the Society.

Last year was an exceptionally prosperous and delightful year; very much of its pleasure being due to the Masons. This year has been a melancholy one - a year of death, accident and illness. My old friends are passing away. Ten years ago, Goblin and Spent went over to the majority, and since then time has wrought cruel ravages - How the ranks have been thinned - Robt Uncle Joseph, Lizzie Robert, Robert, the dear mother, and many another. Within the last few months poor little Daisy Brock, a bright affectionate child, who has been living with us for two or three years was killed by a fall from a pony, a few days since Ken Chapman's son was killed by an explosion of chemicals with which he was making fire works, last Saturday week young Sowden (a master at the Friends High School) fell overboard from his yacht and was drowned. Poor Jim Andrew is a hopeless lunatic in England, L. Barclay has been at deatth's door (one night they thought he was actually dead) Frank Belstead, one of the best men in the civil service has utterly broken down and is now lying in a most critical state. He is a man of whom I am very fond, & I am greatly grieved for him & his family of girls.

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Amongst other recent deaths are those of 'Lusua' - Madame Couvreur, formerly Jessie Humber, at Brussels, and her youngest brother Frank on a far away station in N.S.W. or Queensland, after lying paralysed for many months in consequence of his horse falling on him at a sleight chase.

The year has had a long catalogue of trouble.

In business, last year was exceptionally good - our profits being considerably more than usual. This year there has been a large falling off, it being the worst year we have had since the depression began 6 years ago, though times are generally improving in the colony. Physically I feel

~~The one really bright time~~ that I am failing - My spirits depressed, my energy wanting, my brain dull, and memory worse than ever.

There has been one bright time however - a trip with Isa to Melbourne and Sydney - Isa had been seedy with cough and generally run down - So I determined to take her to Melbourne - We left by night mail on Wed. 28 July, had a lovely trip over in the 'Coogee' & reached Melbourne on morning of Friday 30th. We were in Melbourne about a week, during which the weather was mostly abominable - Wet, wind, & fogs for most part. I think Melbourne in winter more trying than Hobart. Tom Steele & his wife were in Melbourne & we went

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cont)

about with them & Gordon Mepell who is studying Medicine at the University. Perhaps the best thing was the Theatres. Wilson Barrett's 'The Sign of the Cross' at the Princess, and 'Charlie's Aunt' at the Bijou. The first was on the persecutions under Nero, very serious and moving, splendidly staged as to dresses and scenery, every pains having been taken to make it correct in all details to the time of Nero. It is impressive and touching, & goes near to being fine.

'Charlie's Aunt' played by Thornton as the Aunt (supposed) is exquisitely funny, & played with great spirit. Cold Natural humour, avoiding the boisterous & impossible farce which so often disfigures such pieces. I have hardly ever laughed so much in a theatre ~~was positively~~ ^{almost} ~~acted~~ ^{made} with laughing, and ~~felt almost hysterical~~ ^{almost} made an exhibition of myself. We went to Hambourg's Concert (Violin & Piano) one night & were awfully bored, but made up for it by a jolly little supper at the Vienna Café in Collins St.

Amongst other things had found the Zoo very interesting, also the Aquarium in the Exhibition Building. But there is little to do in Melbourne & the place rather bored us, while the weather was so bad that Isa did not improve but rather the contrary. The City too looked sick and dull. There is none of the 'blow' about "Marvellous Melbourne" now. Bad times are with them, and apparently mean to stay.

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Among the people we saw were the Laurens,
Crosbys, Bellous, Mr Mauley (Tom Steele's Aunt)
Prof Morris of the University.

After a week (when the Steeles went) we
had had enough of Melbourne's weather
and resolved to fly to Sydney. We agreed
that the best points about Melbourne were
the Theatres & the Cable Tram (the latter
perfection). Stayed at 'The Grand'.

On Sat. 7 Aug. we took ship in S.S.
'Rodouga' for Sydney - a fine boat and a
perfectly lovely passage - and reached
Darling Harbour in forenoon of Monday.
I was very ill the latter part of the voyage
in spite of 'Bromide'. I was perfectly
well & enjoyed the trip greatly. Since I
began to take 'Bromide of Sodium' for Sea
Sickness on trip to W & in 1884 - and I
have always taken it since before going to
sea. I have never missed a meal or felt
indisposed on a steamer. Before that
I never once went down to a meal.

We took up our quarters at the 'Metropole' -
convenient as to position, but stodgy food
& not well kept, a suggestion of proserness.

We had three delightful weeks in Sydney
and nearly perfect weather - barring three
days solid rain. It is a paradise in
winter, and the picturesque variety of
the Harbour & the parts adjacent to the
Harbour a constant delight. We simply
loved the place - it was a joy - a pleasure
to live. After we had been there 3 or 4

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days Lily Clarke arrived & we began our excursions. She was very ill coming up, arrived after midnight, & on getting to the Metropole. I had to get her up 4 flights of stairs - no light undertaking - indeed she fainted when she got to her room - and there was nothing to be got, not a biscuit or a glass of water. Isa & Lily went to lodge at Mrs Stephens, Eaglesfield, Darlington Road - a delightful tho'thirty old lady who took them to her heart at once, (especially Isa who has a way of winning her way into people's hearts) It was ideal quarters - the family charming, Ethel the artist; Charlie the engineer, shy & kindly, plucky Lemmie Breman of Jean & Co, and as a frequent visitor our old friend Miss Fanny Stephens. Mrs Howard Wright had written to many of her friends, so we made acquaintance of many nice people - some of them we knew. Madeline Docker, Mrs Arthur Docker, Mrs Frank Rogers & her sons wife, the Rignolds, ^{the Dr. Gramsch} & Mrs Lloyd (Mary Roberts) ^{Robert's wife} the Rignolds & Randaells, & others living in various parts who were most delightfully hospitable. One very pleasant evening also at Mr James Norton's at Ecclebourne Double Bay. His wife is a nice loomman, sister of Tom Stephens - His daughter a nice girl with artistic faculty. Norton, gruff at first, but thawing & very genial finally. He & I found common

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ground in Colonial Rocks &c. The Piquet
The Lloyds were specially kind too.
I had much pleasure in ^{meeting} old friends,
Piquet, Prof Liversidge, J. Maynard,
Geo Edwards ~~Robson~~ Robson & others.

Trips - To Coogee with Miss Stephens.

To National Park with Miss S,
very charming, but not time enough.
To Parramatta by Steamer, drive round
Pennant Hills, & through orange groves,
and the Park - back by rail - a
lovely time & a perfect day.

To Hawkesbury Bridge by rail,
then by Steam Launch down Broken
Bay to Pittwater and Newport, by
Coach to Manley, Str to Sydney -
also with Miss Stephens - Perfect,
except a little too cold in launch.

Again Steam ferry to Mosman's Bay,
very picturesque red tiled houses in
bush, electric tram to Military Road
Walk to Spit on Middle Harbour,
back by same route.

To the University, Charlie Stephens
being our cicerone. To the Art Gallery
several times - far better than the
Melbourne gallery. To the Museum,
Isa & Miss S. did the lower floor, &
Ethnological section.

One of the wet days I took Mrs Stephens
Isa & Lily to the Cinematographic in
King Street. Half an hour of views of
Diamond Jubilee procession in London.

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One of the most exciting & thrilling exhibitions I have ever seen. I felt like shouting aloud.

Aftds went again by myself.

Routen rays - Saw bones of my own hand.

Our stay in Sydney was an ideal time. I never enjoyed myself more, except perhaps in New Zealand in 1884-85. Much of the time occupied in roaming about the picturesque parts of Sydney, visiting friends, trips on the Harbour to various places, and much loafing at Sean & Co.

At last the time came to go back. Very reluctantly I took my passage on the 'Donah'. We had a splendid trip to Eden, and delightful time there. Then rough & squally & misty, all across straits, Flinders & Gas. Coast. with N.E. wind. Arrived off Pillar late Sat. night, Captn Gibbs stood out to sea. too dark to go in. At dawn, off Bruny, & got to Cattle Jetty about 10 AM. thence to wharf and home. Found all well.

16 Sept. At this date Sah had a bad attack of headache. Dr Gibson called in said it was nearly case of break down. She was in bed some days, then went up to Mrs Grubbs at the Fern Tree to stay. When she returned Gibson said she must have a long holiday. At Mary's suggestion a trip to England was decided on. Passage taken in P & O Cos R.M.S. 'China' 8000 tons, 11000 h.p.

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She goes 2^d class - £65. return - Saving £40 the first being £205. On Wed. 27 Oct. She left for L'bon by express. Crossed in SS Coogee with passengers for Melbourne - Capt in a severe storm - 8 hours home to, and 12 hours late in arriving. Stayed at C Crobys in Melbourne - less knocked up than one could have expected - Perhaps small doses of Brush cure may have had something to do with it.

Sailed from Melbourne in 'China' on Sat 30 Oct. He heard from her from Adelaide. Though rough trip, was not actually sick, though seedy.

He have been disappointed at not hearing from her from Albany where she would arrive Nov 6.

Expect that she will be away about 12 mos. Very glad that she can go to England & thus fulfil the dream of her life, but anxious how she will stand passage.

Today (18 Nov) attended funeral of Hon Alfred Kennerly - Since shortly after death of his wife (Miss Jane Rouse of Sydney) he has suffered from melancholia or hypochondria, & has never left his house. 40 Davey St & Elbodeu Place - Twenty years living death. Legacies to CP Sprunt's family, to Mrs Sprunt & family, to late Harry Garrett's family - Disappointment of the rich Richard Terry's because his

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(cont)

fine town house not left to them but to All Saints' Church. (Mrs Hemmery left £16,000 to her family, of which Terry's are members) Went up to Mrs Sprent's to tea. The old lady, who had been invited to hear Will read, much excited. ~~Legacy~~ ^{Interest} of £2000 to her for life, corpus to Mrs Dixon. £500 to F. C. Sprent, £500 to Mrs Norman. £100 p.a. to Mrs C. P. Sprent (dur. vid) & legacy for C. P. S. children's education &c. Rage of Mr & Mrs Rich^d Terry. The three Butlers executors of Will!

Nov. 24th

Last session there was a great fight over the Great Western Railway Bill, in which the North & South feeling was very violent. The active promoters of the Syndicate were Chas Officer & R. Harcourt Palmer - the latter a very 'bad hat'. Indeed it appeared afloat that both were uncertificated bankrupts. The Syndicate at first asked for an enormous concession of land, including greater part of the West of the island. This was cut down very much but the Bill in its amended shape was finally passed in the face of violent opposition from Llanneuston members & others.

Some years ago the F. C. L. Co or Norton Smith in their interest got a concession to take a line from Waratah to Leehan. They failed to pay the deposit & the Bill lapsed. It was revived session after session for 4 or 5 years, & eventually the deposit was made & the Prospectus issued. To every one's astonishment

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(cont)

the accompanying maps showed a line not to Leechman but to Mount Lyell. This aroused a strong feeling of indignation in Hobart, as it meant that such a railway would take the trade of Mt Lyell to Eden Bay & so to Melbourne, leaving Hobart & L'ton out in the cold. This was intensified by the knowledge that tapping Mt Lyell would prejudice the floating of the Great Western Co, who had faithfully paid down their £10,000 within the time prescribed, & it seemed to be a flagrant breach of faith with that Co to whom their Bill granted an exclusive right. It then came out that some of the Ministers had given a promise to the Eden Bay Co that they would grant them the right to make a branch to Mt Lyell, under the power given to the Governor in Council to grant them power to make such branches as the Gov. in Council shd approve. It was pointed out that this was not a branch but an extension to a more distant terminus than Leechman, & that in fact it was not contemplated to go to Leechman at all. It afterwards appeared that the concession had been promised at an Executive or Cabinet Meeting when the Attorney General, Andrew Inglis Clarke, was not present. Moreover that though the matter was considered so important, that the Ministers present, Braddon, Moore, & Pellingham had taken the quite

unprecedented course of signing the Minute or Memorandum, the Attorney General had never been consulted as to the legality of the Concession, and indeed that the matter had been concealed from him. Some time after the promise the Atty Genl had been consulted matter of issuing a lease for a branch line had been submitted to the Attorney General & he had at once decided that no lease for a branch line could be issued until after the issue of the principal lease for the main line itself.

It was not until the prospectus appeared & was commented on that the Atty Genl knew of the other Ministers' promise to grant this particular branch & he at once gave it as his deliberate opinion that Ministers had no power to grant what was not a branch at all but an extension. His colleagues however, through Braddon, announced their intention of carrying out their promise in the teeth of the Atty Genl's opinion that it was illegal. The matter was debated & wrangled over in Parlt. Lewis the leader of the Opposition at once tabled a vote condemnatory of the action of Ministers, but at the same time stated his opinion that as the promise had been made by Ministers, whether ultra vires or not, it must be fulfilled. Unfortunately Lewis was the Hobart Agent for the Emu Bay Co's Sols, and therefore not in an independent position. All his friends

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(cont) a grave error of judgment, and that in
his position he should have refrained
from taking action and stood aside.
Various amendments were proposed, the
House of Ass. generally condemning him
but his unwillingly yielded to them.
Braddon refused to yield, & declared that
his honour & that of the others was pledged
to fulfil the promise & would grant the
branch. (It was generally supposed that
there must have ^{been} some very solid & substantial
reason or force in the background to
make them take this stand). Upon
Braddon making this declaration in
his place in the House, Clark rose &
announced his resignation. He could
no longer act with men who were determined
to fly in the face of the law & trample
on the constitution. The Govt were bound
to take the opinion of their law officers,
& if they refused to do so the only course
open to an Attorney General was at once
to resign. That no man with any vestige of
self respect could do otherwise. Clark's
action was universally approved by his own
friends, as the only course wh he cd take
without dishonour, and naturally made
him the most popular man in Hobart.
In L'ton on the contrary he was condemned,
the constitutional question being entirely subordinate
to the bitter feeling against Hobart & the
opposition to any line wh should give to

the South a share in the Western Mining district's trade. It became again a North & South question, and the feeling was intensified by the action of the Hobart Western Railway League under the sinister leadership of Mr G. P. Fitzgerald. After some 10 days of wrangling, the House finally passed a resolution directing Ministers not to grant any branch without taking the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown, but adding a rider to the effect that the House did not condemn their action in making the promise without that advice. A verdict in so many words of "Not guilty, but don't do it again."

After a lot of negotiation with the object of inducing Clark to rejoin his colleagues and his positive & final refusal, D. C. Urquhart was appointed Atty General. It would be hard for even the Braddon Ministry to descend to a lower depth than the appointment of a man of Urquhart's reputation. Lewis having alienated his following, resigned the leadership of the opposition, and Clark became Leader in his place. I greatly regret Lewis' error of judgment, for he is one of our straightest public men, and it will be a sad blow to his influence and his political reputation.

Clark has acted as his friends would have expected him to act. It is pretty well known that relations between him and

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Braddon & Hylch have long been strained, and it is notorious that on several occasions before he has set his face against contemptible jobs and prevented their accomplishment. It is believed that in the purchase of the Main Line Railway, he was sent to England on the Appeal, in order that he might be out of the way, * that Braddon & Co. might conclude the purchase behind his back. Many people would like to know what influences were brought to bear on Ministers to induce them to propose & pass through Parliament a price so preposterously excessive as that given. The solution of many most vexed * in the ^{ways} methods of 'cellar & ground floor' companies is not complimentary to ministers. Another job was the proposed appointment of the notorious St Hill (the dishonest Private Secy of Gov Hald) as Commandant of the Volunteer Force, which Clark refused to sanction, offering Braddon the choice of his resignation if the appointment was persisted in. And there were other cases. ^a

* ²⁹ Rm 2.

[With regard to the M.R. Railway claims & their action agst the Govt in which Dobson C.J. (probably in his anxiety to show that he was not biassed in favour of the Colony, & moreover in manifest misapprehension of the technical questions involved) gave his extraordinary judgment agst which the Govt at first appealed & then on Clark's

departure of the abandoned the appeal & bought the Railway as a settlement with the Co, - it is known that C.H. Grant, when the line had been bought, showed to (Dobbin) ^(Grant's Solicitor) the opinion of the Co's Standing Counsel in London (I think Sir Rich. Webster) in which he said with respect to the Co's proposed action agst the Govt, that the Co had not a leg to stand upon. And this opinion Grant had 'in his pocket' when the C.J. gave his judgment in favour of the Co, - a judgment which was ^{as much} a surprise as unexpected to the Co as to the public of the Colony.]

It does not say much for the standard of political morals in Tas that A.S.C. should have been treated as a hero of quite unexpected heights of virtuous self denial, for taking a course (that of resignation) which any man of ordinary self respect & independence must have taken. One can understand that, to professional politicians like Fysh and Bird, Clark's action in giving up place & pay would seem a piece of folly, but what humiliates one is to see the public & men of sense & honour look upon it as a piece of virtue which could hardly have been expected of a political man. I think that in England a man who had not acted as Clark did would have had ^{formed} his political reputation damned beyond hope of redemption.

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Clark had a great ovation on Monday night. Hamilton's constituents in Glenorchy district called a meeting to censure him for supporting the Govt in the Enn Bay affair. Lynch attended & attacked Clark. The meeting was adjourned & Clark was asked to attend & give his explanation. He did so on Monday night & delivered a speech which left hardly a ray to cover his late colleague. It was eloquent, impressive & dignified, and entirely free from the nervous tricks which too often spoil his speeches. It carried the audience away, & at its conclusion they sprang to their feet & cheered him again & again for his defence of constitutional law & practice against the absolutism of Braden & his colleagues.

The position appears to be this: The Attorney General is the ^{responsible} constitutional adviser of Ministers, in the same way that Ministers are the ^{responsible} constitutional advisers of the Governor. The Governor must act on the advice of Ministers or Ministers must either be dismissed or resign. So Ministers must act on the advice of the Attorney General as long as he retains office. The alternative to accepting the advice is the dismissal or resignation of the Attorney General.

The Legal Profession held a meeting lately at which a resolution was passed upholding this view of the question.

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v.

I think the country is growing weary of Braddon, and his absolutism. He has held his position so long by virtue of his consummate skill in "lobbying" and his cynical disregard of constitutional government. He knows how to play on men's weaknesses. He can get at one man through his virtues & at another through his vices.

Dec: 20.

Presentation of address to A. J. Clark in recognition of his stand for constitutional principles. The address was presented in the Town Hall which was fairly filled, the audience being representative & influential. The presentation was made by Rev^d George Clarke, whose short speech was a model of neatness and good taste. Clark replied in a dignified & thoughtful speech, in which he ^{adherence to} asserted the vital importance of constitutional methods, ~~and presenting~~ as the only true safeguard of public liberty against the personal dictatorships of any one man or any set of men. He particularly reprehended the attempt that had been made to drag the judicial bench into the political arena, and to throw upon the judges the decision as to the course the ministry of the day should take in some eventuality which had not arrived, instead of leaving the point to be decided by the advice of the ^{senior} officer of the crown, the responsible

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Decr. Legal adviser of the government according to the constitution //

Beattie has written for the Tasmanian Mail of 11 Decr an interesting account of the late tragedy at the Hartz Mountains, whereby Arthur & Sydney Gieves lost their lives in a blizzard, and ~~the~~ Osborne Gieves Senr & two other ~~of~~ his sons narrowly escaped the same fate. The curious point is that they had had a good meal and were strong & well two hours before, and that when the violent snow storm overtook them on the tops of the Hartz, something less than an hour's exposure to it was sufficient to overpower and kill two strong & exceptionally hardy young men. Probably their light clothing had something to do with their succumbing so rapidly, but it would seem that the fierce snow & wind paralysed the respiratory apparatus and practically suffocated them. It is difficult to account in any other way for the suddenness of their collapse. Probably the matter will form a subject for investigation by the Medical Section of the Royal Society.

Decr. 23. We have letters from Sah from Colombo. She suffered severely from sea-sickness from Melbourne all the way to Colombo, nearly three weeks. She must have been very bad, seeing that although she was a second

class passenger, the doctor had a good cabin all to herself in the Second Saloon, the doctor had her moved to a cabin in the first saloon, a passenger kindly giving up his cabin for the purpose.

At Colombo she was on shore at the Hotel for some three days, Mr England of Malleson England, & Stewart showing her great kindness & taking her for drives about Colombo. Here she enjoyed herself very much, & rallied rapidly; so much so that when she wrote long & cheerful letters home, and when she returned to the 'China' was so much improved in appearance, that the passengers thought it was a new passenger who had come on board. We are all very anxious about her, and are anxiously looking forward to letters from Aden tomorrow or Saturday.

The tenders for the new lease (7 yrs) of Douglas Park have come in. I am very sorry that Gk Finlay has lost the place, where he & his family have been for the last 21 years. It will be a great blow to him & his young wife to have to leave such a charming house. But he tendered only £1125, while Dan Archer's tender was £1400: from each £75 must be deducted for allowances for improvements. These were the only two tenders. Archer knows the property well,

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(cont)

having been the tenant for at least 7 years before old Mr Finlay took it in 1876. ^{at} just after the agency came to me.

What pleasant times I used to have there in the old days when the Finlay family were young. Since then Mr Finlay (Alex^r) and his sons Robert and Valentine and his pretty daughter Jessie (Mrs Norman Nicolson) are dead. Robert was his father's right hand and a capable fellow. I think the burden of management has been too heavy for poor George, who is not strong, though he is an excellent fellow. Perhaps he will be better & happier in a smaller property with less worry and responsibility. Margaret, a ~~fine~~ woman of fine character, has taken her sister's place at Camelford as wife of Norman Nicolson, and old Mrs Finlay lives with them. But George's departure from Douglas Park will be a sad break up, and it grieves me much. but there was no alternative in face of Archer's tender.

I have been growing nervous about my health. My memory for names - even of well known people - has become very treacherous. More than that I find that I cannot depend on it for recent events in business, and that my grasp of current affairs is impaired. It is an exertion to me to get command of new matters, although when I once get

absorbed in a thing I can deal with it satisfactorily. Yet the sluggishness of my mind indicates failing power. I remember that my father about the same age, just before his death, had the same failure of memory & used to complain of occasional inability to think. Tom Whitesides comforted me the other day by telling me that he often had to ask the names of people whom he knew perfectly well. I suppose that this is the experience of many as they approach their grand climacteric. But then I am still nearly seven years distant from that.

My brother Robert's children are, I fear, weak in constitution. Minnie and Gertrude are both ailing much. Dr. Benjafield says that it is constitutional - rather scrofulous than consumptive. I have had to leave school for a time, and Madge is a delicate child. Theodore is not strong. Elsie is thin & worn, but she has hard work in the business & wearing responsibilities. Kathie is the freshest of the family, and seems to be the healthiest so far. She is undergoing an apprenticeship in a state school. Gertrude has found her vocation in nursing; in ~~which~~ ^{which} she has done well. She has all the heat & impulsiveness of her father.

Elsie takes after her mother, and is a girl of fine character. It is a real pleasure to have to do with her: she has commonsense & wisdom.

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23.
Hadj. suffered from a severe attack of insomnia (Dr Penfield ordered a holiday. In Lancy went to Stretton at Torquay for a week without much benefit. 25 Feb, sailed for NZ with Arthur Mitchell in SS Adriatic called at Auckland. Spent a week at Paradise, Hakarua, then to Dunedin, Christchurch, & Wellington. At Wellington saw Hon. Mason at Hutt. Then by Rail to Mangamui, So. Hawke's Bay, Coromandel by Ruapehu, Taupo, Wairarapa, & to Makarawara. Rail to Auckland. Arrived at Auckland 25 Feb. A splendid trip.

Parliament has been adjourned with a view to prorogation. Before adjourning they abolished the obnoxious Income Tax, which, administered as it is by Charles Mitchell ("the Tape Worm") had grown intolerable.

Monday, June 2nd

Tomorrow will be a momentous day for Australia. The 3rd June is to decide the all important question whether the colonies are to federate or not - whether henceforth we are to remain separate petty Fivotal colonies, with hostile tariffs, or are to form one great Union with common interests. The Commonwealth of Australia.

There have been great searchings of heart in Tasmania. A J Clark & R M Johnston during the sitting of the Convention produced a pamphlet showing how inequitable the financial arrangements ~~would~~ as proposed by the Convention would be to Tasmania. Since the Commonwealth Bill was passed, R M Johnston has made elaborate calculations showing that under a Federal Tariff Tasmania will have a deficiency of from £70,000 to £190,000 a year to be made up by direct taxation, involving as he says national bankruptcy. The most ardent federalists were staggered & felt that if this was to be the case Tasmania could not afford to ~~enter~~ cast her vote for the Commonwealth.

A Committee was formed to examine the financial proposals. It consisted of such men as G.P. Fitzgerald, E.M. Fisher, David Barclay & other business men. They reported against Federation on these lines, & formed - not an anti federation league, but a 'Federation with Safety & Advantage Association', strongly opposing the present Bill, but advocating standing out for better terms. They issued pamphlets & statements & held meetings in opposition to the Federation League which supported the Bill. The Anti-Billites represented chiefly those opposed to change - men like Wm. Broby & W. Perkins. Perkins was particularly violent & uncompromising, but he is the sort of man who would vote against the Millennium if he thought it would involve him in a payment of 20s. per ann. more taxes. On the other hand the Federal feeling has been growing in a quite surprising fashion. After getting over the first shock of Johnston's figures & realising that Federation was in many respects a leap in the dark, thoughtful men looked at the other alternative - what would be Tasmania's position if she was left alone outside the Federation with United Australia banded against her. Slowly many of us came to the conclusion that this was a worse alternative than the possible financial risk of joining. We realised that Federation must come - that it was an absolute necessity for Australia - & if the

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(Cont)

plunge had to be made, it had better be made at once. Every year of delay would make the problem more difficult, the conflicting interests more irreconcilable, the prospect of agreement on fair terms more remote. That this wd especially be the case with the smaller colonies who would be more & more overshadowed by the large & rapidly growing populations of N.S. Wales and Victoria. Now Tasmania is offered equal terms in the Constitution - equal representation in the Senate with the great colonies, a minimum of 5 members - instead of 3 her proportionate number - in the House of Representatives. In the growing state of feeling, with the constantly increasing demand for the mass vote as the final arbiter, never again were we likely to get such favourable terms. The conviction was that while it would involve considerable risk to go in, it would involve certain loss, perhaps disaster, to stand out alone. Moreover, in each colony there was a strong opposition party, each protesting that their particular colony was getting the worst of the bargain, that Federation was good for all the others but not for them. This seemed a strong argument for the Bill. Where each partner declared he was getting the worst of the bargain it might reasonably be inferred that the arrangement was fairly equitable all round.

He also came to see that however competent Johnston might be as a statistician - and this & his transparent honesty were universally recognised - he was not speaking of facts which could be demonstrated by figures, but really was prophesying. Neither Johnston nor any man in Tasmania, or in Australia, can forecast the results of Federation and Intercolonial Free Trade. It will be the inauguration of a new order, in which an enormous change in the centre of gravity must take place. What the results of the dislocation will be no one can foretell. Some trades & industries would probably be damaged or ruined - e.g. shoemaking, tanning, biscuit manufacturers, when exposed to the competition of Victorian manufacturers with their better & cheaper methods. On the other hand some industries such as fruit growing & timber would likely find new & profitable outlets when all Australia was a market & hostile tariffs ceased to exist. It was also seen that many of the arguments urged against the Bill were arguments against Fedⁿ on any terms. Another noteworthy fact was that some of the prominent opponents were rejected candidates for the Convention, e.g. Bird, Miles & Hoollough. Probably A I Clark, ardent federalist as he is, was not wholly uninfluenced by the consideration that his proposals had not been adopted, & was therefore disinclined to say a word

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(cont)

(which would have been decisive with many people) in favour of the Bill. Moreover, to have advocated the Bill would have been inconsistent with the declarations of the pamphlet (Rm Is this) that under the Convention's financial arrangements Tasmania could not safely join. So he has taken his seat on the fence, & this position will probably lose 1000 votes for the Bill. He has declared that he will not vote 'No,' but he declines to recommend the Bill.

In spite of the persistent opposition of both Hobart papers - (the 'Mercury' & the 'Tasmanian News;') the feeling in Hobart for Federation has been steadily growing stronger. In the last few weeks a distinct enthusiasm, a strong federal feeling has been growing. Not only the multitude ever ready for change - so long as it is change, which may possibly bring them some improvement to their present unsatisfactory condition, but the more thoughtful who appreciate the risk & uncertainty, the possibility that Tasmania may suffer & suffer severely, are coming to the conclusion that Union is a necessity, that it will be in the long run at least an enormous advantage to Australia as a whole, & that they must run the risk of possible sacrifice by individuals or even by the colony to attain such a desirable end. Some still object & will vote 'No' because they think the proposed Constitution too democratic.

on the one man one vote principle for both Houses - But as I have pointed out to them every year the matter is delayed will only tend to more ultra democracy, & we shall finally be compelled to accept a Bill where the mass vote will be supreme without a check of any sort. Some will vote against it from purely personal considerations fearing the effect of free trade on their particular occupation. More still will vote 'no' from the fear of a crushing taxation which may become necessary, & would well nigh, as they fear, kill industry. But I believe that (in spite of all) the longing for National Unity will triumph, and that in Tasmania the sentiment for a United Australia - the determination to be no longer a congeries of petty communities, but a Nation with a National outlook, will triumph, and the vote will be a large majority for the Commonwealth of Australia - 'one people one destiny'.

The Federal League has been doing its work well. Large & enthusiastic meetings have been held in Hobart during the last few weeks, which have done much to rouse interest & enthusiasm. Federal delegates & others have stumped the country for the Bill. The Launceston papers especially the 'Daily Telegraph' have warmly advocated the Cause. Songs have been written & sung amidst great enthusiasm - notably one

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(cont.)

by H H Dawson - and popular interest has been aroused to an extent that few would have believed possible.

The mining population ~~will~~ on the West Coast will go for it solid. In the North the feeling seems strongly favourable. In Hobart, despite the persistent opposition of the newspapers, there is a prospect of a large majority in favour. In the country districts the feeling seems to be generally favourable, although in some places the farmers are doubtful or hostile. I expect that tomorrow much more than the 6000 necessary votes will be cast for the Bill, and that there will be a substantial minority against it.

The only fear is that the people will not vote. But out of 31,000 voters, surely something like 10,000 will put in an appearance at the polling booths.

Many waverers will probably abstain from voting. Many who fear the financial question have declared that, though they cannot support it, they will not vote against it.

On the other hand large numbers will vote 'Yes' blindly, & with the most absurd hopes of what Federation will bring in the way of benefit. Linley the ^{Council} Police Clerk at Soull told me yesterday that a man came in to pay his rates & remarked that when we had Federation he supposed there would be none of those things to pay,

& that with free trade there would be hardly any duties & that whisky & tobacco would be got cheap!

Speaking of individuals I was considerably surprised by a remark of C M Lemison - a conservative of the Conservatives, Manager of the Union Bank, & with his whole sympathies on the monied & capitalist side. He said that in spite of all the figures brought forward by Johnston & others, & his fear of the probability of increased direct taxation, he was wavering in his opposition, & was almost persuaded to vote 'Yes', because he doubted whether taking all risks into account Tasmania could afford to stand out.

I may mention that BR Wise of Sydney made a fine oration in the Town Hall to a crowded & enthusiastic audience in support of the Bill. He made a telling point in favour of the Bill by pointing out that the same objections of possible or probable ruin to individual States had been urged agst them joining the United States of America, and the Dominion of Canada. He cited the example of Newfoundland, the only colony which refused to federate, as an object lesson. She stood out on the ground of the danger to her finances. Since then while the Dominion had made marvellous progress, Newfoundland had steadily gone back. She had not long since applied to the

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June 2 Home Govt for financial aid to save her from
(cont) bankruptcy. I had recently made over her
railways & mines to an English capitalist
on the sole condition that he should pay
the interest on her debt.

Tomorrow will be a day fraught
with the greatest issues for the future
of Australia - and of Tasmania -
May the result be that ~~we~~ I may see
before I die 'The Commonwealth of
Australia' an established fact, with
Tasmania as a component part!
God preserve the Commonwealth!

June.

The Third of June was the day appointed
in New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania for
the plebiscite on Federation.

I always have thought it important to
bring up the youngsters to take an intelligent
interest in public affairs. As this was
a day which might well prove to be
the birthday of a united Australian
nation, and therefore one which the
youngsters of the present generation might
be proud to talk of to their grandchildren.
I asked my nephews Bernard and
Theodore to come with me to the Town
Hall to hear the declaration of the
results of the polling. We went down
about 8 o'clock, with Jean (?) and Ridley
followed with Mary and Hannah Giblin.
On our arrival we found the Hobart

on a great board at the 'Mercury' Office.

figures up, 1354 Yes and 942 No. Very shortly the Launceston figures arrived - 1597 Yes & 111 No. a result received with cheers by the crowd which was even then considerable. The N. Wales figures posted were 47814 Yes and 45693 No.

The following shows the progress of the voting as posted -

8 PM.				N. Wales	
				Yes	No.
	Hobart -	1354.	942	47814	Yes
	Launceston	1597 -	111	45693	No.
	Montagu	1122	47		
	Louisa	197.	11		
	Glenorchy.	298	171	Victoria 8:30	
	Selby	226	26	8823	Yes.
	Kingborough	357.	50	1566	No.
	Latrobe	159.	9		
	Richmond	49	97		
	Batlands.	102	90.		
	Glamorgan	70	86		
	Brighton	110	89	9:15 Victoria.	
	Lucumborough	179	161	45212	Yes
	West Devon	652.	18	8867	No
		6472	1908	Quota obtained -	
				Great cheering	

Trigal.	375	50	at 9:15 the following figures were posted from N. Str. 80,284 Yes 78,182 No.
Campbell Town	159	24	
New Norfolk	257.	50	
Ringarooma	384	56	

~~69~~ .2088
7641

This was the signal for great cheering - but it afterwards proved to be a mistake.

	Yes	No.	
10 PM.	7641.	2088.	Victoria 10
Karatah -	334.	16	63,041 Yes
Louford.	197	11	11,390 No
Sorell.	98	112	
Devonport	598	12	
Franklin	326	32	
Cumberland	54	66	
Deloraine	310.	42	
10:30 PM. Ringarooma	354.	34	Victoria 10:30
Hestbury	234	24	81,176 Yes
Cressy	112	4	15,154 No
George Town	447.	8	
	<u>10,805</u>	<u>2620.</u>	

He stood on the Town Hall steps and the boys were greatly interested by their first experience of a political excitement. The crowd gradually increased until there must have been 4000 to 5000 people. As the numbers increased the enthusiasm especially of the young men increased & the cheering became frequent & for Hobart - quite enthusiastic. He staid until nearly 11, when the boys & went home, with their memories strongly impressed, I hope. Later

Later I went down again towards midnight when Hiddlestone - Mayor & Returning Officer. declared the final figures so far as known. The crowd had dwindled away, leaving only a few of the more enthusiastic, who relieved

there feelings by singing 'Rule Britannia' and 'God Save the Queen' & cheering for the Commonwealth. We all went away satisfied & Content that the Commonwealth of Australia was an accomplished fact.

Next morning we had a rude awakening. The papers informed us that the NSW figures were a mistake, and that the voting was 70,000 Yes and 65,000 No. Thus falling 10,000 short of the requisite minimum vote. This was a sad blow.

The Victorian voting as finally declared was 5 to 1 for, and the Tasmanian 4 to 1. The South Australian taken on Saturday the 4th was roughly 35,000 to 17,000 - or 2 to 1. Only NSW had stood out, chiefly owing to the Shuffling, damning-with-faint-praise attitude of her Premier, G H Reid.

Most people were surprised at the largeness of the Tasmanian vote.

The North^{gippsland} went Solid, Hobart & the Surrounding districts (in spite of R M Johnston, the hostile papers, and A J Clarke's abstention) showed a substantial Majority. Only the East Coast - Sorell, Cumberland, Glamorgan, Richmond - the most unprogressive districts, voted No.

The 'Mercury' and 'Tasmanian News' both continued their hostility to the last, going to the length of simply printing

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June 22. the numbers, without any description of the proceedings on the night of the declaration of results.

Since then Reid telegraphed to the Premiers proposing a conference with a view of agreeing to amendments of the Bill to make it acceptable to N.S.Wales. Kingston (Sd) replied with a plump & decided negative, and so did Braddon. Turner (Tict) also declined in milder terms.

Since then Jack Hant - the champion of provincialism, the great Anti-billite - has rejoined the Reid Ministry, and Reid has put forth a manifesto, demanding such amendments as would make an entirely new Bill, and has announced these demands to be the settled & unanimous policy of his Ministry. The fight led by Barton will have to be fought at the approaching N.S.Wales general elections.

The N.S.W. demands are mainly for the mass referendum in case of difference between the Houses, and alteration in the financial scheme. They are fundamental. Reid has now thrown off the mask & declared himself an anti-billite, if not rather an Anti-Federalist.

Once again, as so often before, the N.S.Wales politicians block the way to Federation. They will have no Federation unless N.S.W. is made dominant.

Capital
to be Sydney

on
 Davey. Lee
 Knight were
 weather had
 left the wh
 moonlight n
 Cape, howeve
 a N.W. gale
 we were off
 I went on a
 the wild sea
 with rain &
 entrance is
 great jagged
 quartzite,
 or less pyx
 out of the
 the barrow
 in the be
 Mountain
 in the fi
 we turne
 Island,
 us, stea
 Bramble
 Breaksea
 low isla
 in a c
 month

This portrait was taken for
 the Season Ticket of the Hobart
 Antinatural Exhibition, & is a
 working libel on the original.

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Council of the University of Tasmania was held yesterday afternoon at the Executive Council chamber, Franklin-square. The Chancellor (the Rev. George Clarke) presided, and there were also present:—Revs. Dr. Scott and T. Taylor; Ven. Archdeacon Whittington; Mr. Justice Clark, Mr. Justice Dodds; Hon. Nicholas Brown, M.H.A., N. E. Lewis, M.H.A., Adye Douglas, M.L.C., W. Moore, M.L.C.; Messrs. J. B. Walker, J. Rule, and F. Lodge.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHANCELLOR.

The CHANCELLOR stated that Mr. T. Stephens and Mr. J. B. Walker had been nominated for the office of Vice-Chancellor of the University for the remainder of the current year in succession to himself. He ought to mention, perhaps, that Mr. Stephens might soon have to drop out of the Council on account of having been absent from its meetings for six months.

Mr. J. B. WALKER said he thought the Vice-Chancellor ought to be a graduate of the University, and not being such he himself was disposed to shrink from accepting the office if it were conferred on him. Mr. Stephens was a man of high attainments, who would adorn the chair, and if that gentleman were elected he (Mr. Walker) would be willing to perform the work of the office till Mr. Stephens returned. He would ask to be allowed to withdraw his own name from nomination.

The Rev. Mr. TAYLOR observed that if Mr. Stephens lost his seat on the Council his office as Vice-Chancellor would go with it.

The Hon. Adye DOUGLAS suggested it would be better now to appoint Mr. Walker, who could retire in favour of Mr. Stephens later on.

The Rev. Dr. SCOTT said that Mr. Stephens might not then be elected.

The CHANCELLOR said that as the new Vice-Chancellor would now be elected for only four or five months, it would be better for Mr. Walker to be appointed, if he would consent to act.

The Hon. N. E. LEWIS asked Mr. Walker to withdraw his objection. Mr. Walker was eminently fitted for the position by life-long devotion to the cause of education in Tasmania, both in connection with the Council of Education and the University. It would be a well-merited honour to confer on Mr. Walker, who would fill the position with dignity.

Mr. Justice DODDS said that before electing Mr. Stephens they ought to know that he could be back in time to take and save his seat at the Council. If he were here he (Mr. Justice Dodds) thought, in view of his past services, they ought to elect him; but as the date of his return was uncertain, he ventured to think they ought to proceed to elect Mr. Walker—who would fill the office with credit to himself and advantage to the University.

Mr. WALKER consented to his nomination's standing.

Archdeacon WHITTINGTON thought the Vice-Chancellor should be a graduate of the University. The possession of a degree might mean nothing—it might be only a hall mark—but he thought there was no precedent for the Vice-Chancellor not being a graduate.

Mr. RULE pointed out that in appointing a gentleman who was not a graduate they would be following precedent.

Archdeacon WHITTINGTON replied that they could not make precedent in their own University.

The Council then appointed Mr. J. B. Walker Vice-Chancellor.

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Aug. 31. On Saturday (27th) made one of some 140 people (among whom were some half dozen ladies) on a trip in the S.S. 'Donah' to Port Davey. Cecil Allport, Charlie Hainu & Harry Knight were my cabin companions. The weather had been threatening but when we left the wharf at 9 PM it was a calm moonlight night. On getting off South West Cape, however, in the early morning we met a N.W. gale and heavy sea. Between 6 & 7 we were off the entrance to Port Davey, and I went on deck in my pyjamas to enjoy the wild scene. It was blowing hard with rain squalls & driving scud. The entrance is a scene of savage grandeur; great jagged rocks of greyish white quartzite, of grotesque shape mostly more or less pyramidal, and of all sizes, jutting out of the sea like scattered sentries along the barren rocky shore, which rose steeply in the background into barren whitish mountains seen fitfully through rifts in the flying clouds. Soon after 7 we turned the north point of Breaksea Island, & leaving the tossing waves behind us, steamed into the still water of Bramble Cove where we came to an anchor. Breaksea Id is remarkable - a long rather low island, broken into 3 parts, & stretching in a crescent shape right across the mouth of Bathurst Harbour, it looks almost like an artificial breakwater, only that is more effective. The waves

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may dash as they please outside, but once round Breaksea the vessel rides as securely as in the smooth water of a dock.

Brown.
Mountain.

After breakfast a number of passengers went ashore in boats. Most chose a low smooth green hill towards the entrance to the harbour, but our party & a few others set ourselves to the ascent of Mt Misery or Mt Berry. This mountain of quartzite rises just behind Bramble Cove & has a double peak connected by a saddle, the highest & more remote being Mount Berry (2152 ft). The face of the mountain is exceedingly steep & rocky, looking as if paved with quartzite with narrow green seams between. From a distance one would think it was covered with large patches of snow. We took a green spur to the left which gave a comparatively easy ascent, though this was sufficiently steep, & the foothold was bad - peaty soil with stunted heath like vegetation & a little dwarf button grass. Everywhere the ground was riddled with borings of some crustacean, like those made by the fresh water lobster in the West Country. This was the only sign of animal life, except that we came across the dung of a kangaroo in one place. Not a bird, lizard, or insect did we see. This however may have been due to the southerly gale which brought fierce squalls of hail & sleet. When we reached the saddle & climbed the lower peak of

* Occasionally we got a glimpse of
strange shadowy peaks, forming part
of the DeHill range in the Western background.

12 or 15
miles from
Breaksea

rough quartzite we had to seek shelter among
the rocks from the squalls. The sleet stung
our faces & it was difficult to stand against
the wind. The swirling of the white squalls
round the higher peak was very fine, and
the battle with the wind quite exhilarating.
The weather was strongly characteristic of the
region, and set off in a striking manner
the desolate & savage landscape. From
the peak we had an extensive view of
bare & rugged mountain & valley blotched
with white, of harbour ~~basin~~, headland,
island, rock & inlet, in varied confusion.
To the west we looked up the Western arm
running up to the Davey River some 8
or 10 miles, and Kelly's Basin on the
further side. * Looking East on the further
side of the Saddle was a deep valley,
which divided into two by a pair of
conical hills of bare quartzite, whitish
& rugged. Beyond were the waters of
Long Bay or Spring River; beyond this
the bare & desolate white peaks of Mt
Rugby 2650 ft which shut out most of
Big Bay. At our feet we could trace the
long winding harbour, the narrows, &
numerous bays & long inlets, & islands
a few of which were wooded. Beyond was
the wave eaten shore, with its fringe of
strange shaped rocks, and background
of illimitable ocean. It was a wonderful
scene of wild desolation. The most utterly
desolate & forsaken country I ever saw.

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Hardly any where was timber visible, though occasional patches could be detected in more sheltered gullies. Undone of the island in the harbour. 300 or 400 below us on the other side of the saddle was a patch of scrub to which we descended. It was stunted gum or peppermint & tea trees, & those who went into it said it was very dense. Here we managed to get a fire made, and we heard the whistle of a honey-eater, the only sign of animal life except the kangaroo dung & the crab holes. As to the latter they were every where, even on the tops of the mountain nearly 2000ft up, & down the other side as far as we went. He had taken the precaution to take sandwiches with us - that is, our own party of 4. The others had not been so provident, so what was meant for 4 had to satisfy a dozen. When I came to open my sandwiches there were five hungry claimants - Fortunately the people at home had supplied with a generous hand.

Out of all the 140 passengers only some 12 or 13 adventured themselves on the mountain. Besides myself, C. Allport, C. Hain, H. Knight, Thirlwall Junr, Lewis May & his brother, C. J. Atkins, Percy Wood, Geo & Clarke & his brother Arthur, Dr Geo Calvert and Mat Simmons.

Enimous & I wore blueys & were dry & warm while the others in overcoats & flapping macintoshes were wet & shivering, but we all enjoyed every minute of the

time, even when covering from the driving hail and sleet in the shelter of quartzite rocks, or slipping & tumbling on the spongy ground, rendered more treacherous by great patches of slimy moss or algae, which reminded me of the account James Backhouse gives in his book of his experience in 1832.

On our return instead of taking the spur up which we had come Cecil allport led us round the eastern side of the peak of Mt Misery down a gully with sides so steep that it was hard work to keep our footing, & we had various tumbles though no one was hurt. When we reached the bottom we had to travel a mile or more to the other side of Bramble Cove where the boat was. As in many parts of the Western country it looked level enough going when seen from a distance, but proved to be a succession of steepish ridges often with swampy ground between.

We got on board about 3 PM, the whistle having been blown repeatedly just as we began to descend the mountain & got in sight of the vessel. As however we knew they could not go without us and as there was yet several hours of daylight in which to get to sea, we did not hurry ourselves. The whole of the passengers we found lining the bulwarks having been watching with much interest our dropping down the mountain & our embarkation. For those who had stayed on board I think

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Aug

ie. for the great majority, I think this was the greatest excitement they had.

After changing our clothes, before which we had been snap-shotted by Beattie & others, we felt fresh & quite unfatigued. About 4 PM we got under way & ran out & along the coast, before a fair gale of wind & a big sea, the steamer being very light rolling & pitching tremendously. We had a fine view of the St Cape, which though tame looking from a distance is a very bold & striking cleft mass of rock on a nearer view.

There was a great difference of opinion about the trip. Some declared it a failure & said they were only too glad to get back. Some, like our own party, enjoyed it intensely all the time. - the war of elements as much as anything. Some of those who stayed on board, eg. C. E. Barclay, Geo Collins, Harby, Dr Bright, R. P. Adams were well content. A good deal of annoyance was caused by the foolish pranks & noise of some of the youngsters, & more by the drunkenness & objectionable conduct of some of the ~~older~~ older people, notably Mr Harry Parker.

We got up to the wharf about 1 AM, and many went home then. I was sound asleep & did not wake until near 7 AM, when I found all my mates gone, I therefore dressed shouldered my swag & got home about 8, having thoroughly

enjoyed the trip.

'The River and the Rill'

They shook their sweetness out in their sleep
On the brink of that beautiful stream;
But it wandered along with a wearisome song,
Like a lover that walks in a dream!

So the roses blew
When the winds went through,
So the moonlight, so white & so still;
But the River it beat
All night at the feet
Of a cold & flinty hill -
Of a hard & senseless hill.

Looking back.

Prudence for future one of the greatest
lessons of life for the young -

attained by self restraint ~~SYNCRETIC~~

Yet if followed produces cold selfishness.

How can it be reconciled with

Take no thought &c.

Animalism on the one side - asceticism

Sordid prudence & selfishness on the other ^{every fine day}

Both restrained - the higher motive
of conduct as a member of the community -

This is the most important thing to instil
in early life - True ambition to keep mankind

Righteousness.

Religion has given this - Egyptians
Stoics -

publican.

Braddon - Nihil tibi
Lds. Educ. Sec Schools Bill
Referendum
Products for export.

Least misch. as Agent Gen.

Use in retrench. Callous
Contempt for colony
democracy.

W.R. has
Sorell line
of Backs Ref

The new ^{age} modern
remarkable - Mrs. Hale

After passing of Act in C. W. Ks
109,461. women reg^d & of these
90,291 voted. Male voters
193,536 of whom 129,792 voted.
Ratio of popⁿ 88 women to 100 men.
Can't help doubt abt women,
they will be inclined to leg. for
the suppression of so many things,
they won't learn as men have done
that leg. to suppress an evil
is often more misch. than lett'g it
alone. They have too much belief
in the power of a law.

Also reform dress assoc.
Most grotesque knickerbocker
costume - Women's dress above ends
in a sort of wondrous breeches.

26/1/93

Mr Rummy - McAulay -
Brown - Lubbock

McAulay - ~~Friday day~~

Brown - F. H. - ^{cried} I have

William - despondent

2 Mts with lecturers

Scheme - Latin
groups -

H. School -

L'ton oppose teaching

Berea 1863

has

irreverence for the aims of ~~with~~.
He has His case is a hard one.
He has sacrificed the rewards of
a selfish prudence for the sake of
an ideal. The ideal has faded
and he only has the bitter
consciousness that his life is a
failure & that he has missed the
low reward which he ~~like~~ others
might have won, like others who
began by ~~setting~~ deliberately
making that their aim.

The optimist is apt to forget the
supreme necessity of Paul's enkrateia
self control - temperance & moderation.
~~reasonableness~~ ^{prudence} in all things.

He is not sufficiently impressed with
the necessity of attending painfully to
the formation of habit, the need
of constant & painful effort, of
dogged perseverance & attention to
small things. In these things and
they are of vital importance the
pessimist is likely to have the advantage.

Men who

optimism are liable to
a revulsion in age - as the ^{full} spendthrift
May in youth may become the ^{old} miser
in age. They begin by thinking too
highly of men, until painful experience
has taught them the bad side, &
after constant disappointment
they end by thinking too meanly of
them, and running to the opposite
extreme of pessimism.

So many a man starts life
with high ideals & noble enthusiasms,
He scorns the selfish maxims of
worldly prudence ^{as degrading} and if he is one
of rare power & exceptional moral
fibre his life will be a noble one.
Too often however his enthusiasm
wanes, he has not the force to keep
his high ideal in conduct ~~seduced~~
~~by its and disgusted by~~ in profound
disgust at his failure & regret at
the solid advantages which he sees
the men of low aims acquire for
themselves, there comes to him that